

NEW

**JULY
1992**

MISSION NEWS

777 VALENCIA ST.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

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VICTOR MILLER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Photo by Justin Williams



JORDAN'S PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS LITTLE CASH FOR SOLUTIONS

- by Brian Doohan

"Too bad you were born. Nobody has any use for you... Come in and stay in, all you burdens on Society."

(fictitious sign over fictitious jail in Kurt Vonnegut's fictitious "Hocus-Pocus")

Mission pedestrians may well consider the panhandlers blocking access to their favorite tacquerias, the dozing derelicts in excrement-stained rags and street people who babble moon-talk as they plow through sidewalk crowds a bunch of worthless bums.

Boy, are they wrong!

A study completed by the Mayor's Office of Economic Planning and Development has concluded that each homeless person is worth a minimum \$48,000 a year... well over what most Missionites earn and half the value of a Deputy Mayor.

The catch? They're worth this only when they've been disappeared.

THE MAYOR'S PLAN

On June 26th, Mayor Frank Jordan announced an anti-homeless plan to arrest street panhandlers who exhibit "behavior which infringes on citizens' rights, hurts business owners (and) harms tourism." Appearing with business leaders, taxi drivers and a spokesman of St. Vincent de Paul, the Mayor distributed posters of a universal X-out sign over a hand with two coins in it, probably quarters as evidenced by the word "Liberty" atop rather than to the left or right of the blurred-out Presidential profile.

The policy on which the new offensive is based is defined in a study by Jordan's conservative economic czar Kent Sims which calls for (1) reducing the flow

of homeless people into San Francisco, (2) meeting the needs of homeless persons currently in our City, and (3) preventing the presence of large numbers of homeless people from further undermining our economy.

The Mayor's plan observes that homeless people swarm into San Francisco because of the "viability" of panhandling, the "generous array of social services", the large quantity of cheap hotel rooms and "sheltered and semisheltered public places for the homeless to occupy" and the City's proximity to prisons and mental institutions.

This presence of homeless people is seen as a self-generating problem, discouraging business which leads to loss of jobs and further homelessness. The study, citing several public and private research efforts, calculates the cost of "proliferation" of homeless people in San Francisco as:

- between \$175 and \$215 million yearly in business revenue from people who do not come into the City to spend money because of their fear and loathing of the homeless,
- \$49 million in General Assistance,
- \$13.5 million for indigent medical care, and
- \$6.3 million in substance abuse services... for a total of approximately \$264 million or, using its census figure of precisely 5,569 homeless in San Francisco... \$48,000 for every bum, every year!

The study concludes with three initiatives to contain the size of San Francisco's homeless population... providing incentives for homeless people to enter service systems through "aggressive recruitment", targeting people at-risk of homelessness through loss of federal housing subsidies

and other conditions and "reducing San Francisco's attractiveness to homeless persons".

The latter is to be implemented by (1) discouraging begging through police presence and anti-panhandling public relations campaigns, (2) stepping up enforcement of anti-sleeping laws, (3) identifying persons with "intact support elsewhere" such as juveniles, the mentally ill, battered women etc. and "reuniting them with this support", (4) identifying criminal fugitives among the homeless population, and (5) an

anti-homeless advertising campaign.

"Currently our City has a self-proclaimed reputation as a sanctuary for anyone who does not fit in elsewhere," the study concludes. "We need to develop the reputation of a tough, not an easy place to be homeless."

Anthony van der Muhl of the Coalition on Homelessness dismisses the Mayor's study as a "diatribe" and rejects the implications that San Francisco is a

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COOLING OFF THE LONG HOT SUMMER OPTIONS TO GANGS DEBATED

by Victor Miller

The hottest issue for the Mission community in 1992 has been the sharp escalation in gang related violence which has claimed the lives of three neighborhood youth since the beginning of the year. After dozens of meetings, including a Summit Conference on youth issues in April, attended by over 300 people, it became abundantly clear that a comprehensive program of recreational options to gang involvement had to be in place for the summer months.

At a June 18th community meeting with Mary Burns, general manager of the City's Park and Recreation Department, there was reason to believe that goal had been met, at least on paper. However, neighborhood residents at the meeting expressed a skepticism that occasionally bordered on hostility in responding to Burns' presentation of her department's summer schedule for the Mission.

The meeting was held at the Mission Recreation Center, a \$5 million facility that has been the frequent target of community criticism for its failure to attract significant numbers of neighborhood youth. Indeed, on the night of the meeting (only

a few days after public schools had closed for the summer) the Rec Center was virtually empty with the exception of the approximately 30 people who had come to speak to Burns.

The 20 pages of materials titled "Mission District Programs" distributed at the meeting offer an extremely wide range of supervised activities for kids between the ages of 6 and 18 at 7 different sites. Everything from Jr. Disk Jockey to soccer to cooking classes to karate is offered.

A TOUGH CROWD

The problem is that kids need to know these activities exist in order to take advantage of them. The most logical way to do this would be through the schools.

Luisa Esquerro, a public school teacher and former Park and Recreation Commissioner, told the meeting that Park and Recreation Schedules arrived in classrooms only on the last week of school, the least optimum time of the year to disseminate new information. Part of the problem seems to be that the school district does not allow direct distribution of outside literature but requires use of a centralized distribution center.

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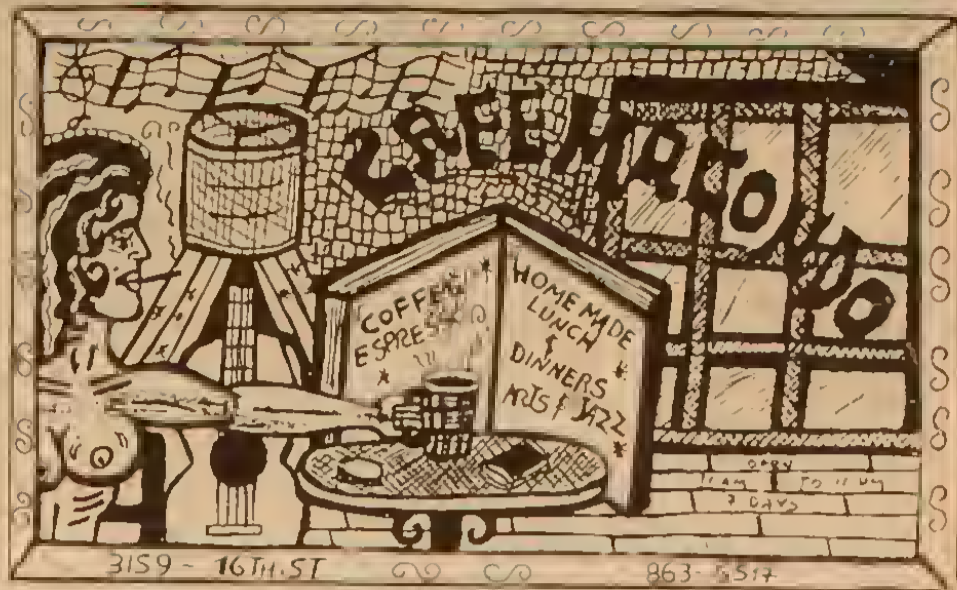
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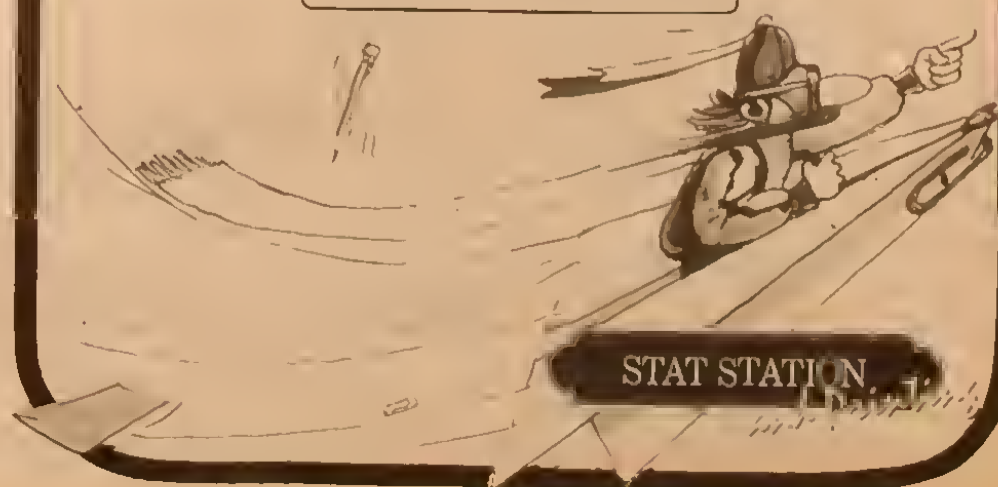
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PARK COALITION PRESSURES JORDAN

by Mark Rutherford

Mayor Frank Jordan agreed to continue horse and motorcycle mounted police patrols in Dolores Park for at least another year during a June 13th meeting held at the Golden Gate Lutheran Church.

The meeting, attended by an estimated 200 people, was sponsored by the Dolores Park Neighborhood Coalition. Composed of the 19th Street Group, the Mission Playground Neighborhood Association, the Cumberland Street Group and the Golden Gate Lutheran Church, the coalition met with Jordan to address what residents described in their, at times, impassioned testimony as the increasing violence, intimidation, theft and drug dealing plaguing their neighborhood.

Eight specific proposals were put to Jordan as yes or no questions by coalition representatives Liz Schiff and Steve Seacrist. These met with a mixed response from the Mayor.

In addition to continued mounted patrols the coalition had asked for an overall increased police presence. Jordan waffled on this issue, citing what he called the worst budget crunch since 1939. However, he said no personnel cuts were contemplated for Mission Station. He also promised that police would include 19th Street and the Mission Playground in their patrols to avoid "shuffling the problem from one area to another".

Schiff noted that three signs declaring the park a "drug free zone" due to its proximity to Mission High School had been posted.

Jordan remained more elusive on the coalition's other requests; mainly that he fund a detox center, appoint a representative from his office to liaison with coalition members and that he crack down on "revolving door offenders" who manage, because of limited jail space or other factors, to escape prosecution.

Pastor Kelly Denton-Borhaug, a key organizer for the event, said she felt that,

in some ways, the Mayor had committed more to the neighborhood than had been expected, but said she had no illusions about the need to press for further improvement.

"We still feel that a lot of work needs to be done," she said.

Denton-Borhaug also said she was disappointed that, after reviewing the proposals for almost two months, Jordan had not come up with more concrete plans for action.

Jordan promised to return to the coalition and report on his progress in six weeks.

Michael King, one of the five residents to testify at the meeting, said a general sense of foreboding had crept into the area.

"Budget cuts or not, I think Jordan is at least called upon to make more than a gesture here. He'll get nothing but kudos for following up on this," King said.

Frank Morales, a ten year resident of the area who also testified at the meeting, remained hopeful.

"Nobody in a position of power is going to volunteer to come back and be accountable in six weeks if they didn't plan on doing something in the interim," Morales reasoned.

"I've got to say that even if Jordan does nothing else for us during his entire tenure, he'll still have done 200 percent more than Agnos ever did," Morales said.

Ellen Salwen, Zoila Aguilar and Oscar Platero Jr. also testified at the meeting.

In pledging to continue the increased park patrols, Jordan noted the success the patrols have had so far. He contrasted the 106 persons arrested last year with 152 arrested to date this year.

19th Street Group member Eileen Gold said that while neighborhood conditions had improved somewhat since last year, the problem has not been solved.

"We still have to go out and clean up the graffiti and the broken glass and do those other things that tell you your



Photo by Denise Garone

Dolores Park, deceptively calm.

neighborhood is deteriorating," Gold said.

The Mayor hinted that one obstacle to effective law enforcement was the City's sanctuary law. Of the 28 "buy-busts" made in the Dolores Park area last month, 23 involved illegal aliens, Jordan claimed.

Jordan also called for support on an upcoming proposition to expand the San Francisco jail. He said it cost the city \$11,000 a day to send the jail's overflow to Alameda County jail in order to avoid being penalized by the Federal government.

Residents like John Bachert felt the meeting was a bit of a paradox. "We heard the standard replies that we

expected. Nothing new, which was disappointing," Bachert said. "But I think he (Jordan) was doing the best he could. It's just one of those things where everyone is doing the right thing; it just doesn't seem to change things.

Morales said he has been fighting the area's decline for years. He said residents have implemented every single one of the police department's crime fighting recommendations. He feels it is now up to City government to fulfill its obligations to the neighborhood by implementing the coalition's proposals. "We don't have to take this crap any more," he said.

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Photo by Najib Joe Hnkim

HOMELESS

continued from page 1

"magnet" for the homeless. "Every city in the United States has a homeless problem."

Jordan's homeless czar Larry Cruz, finding "no evidence either way on the magnet theory" told the News that the Mayor's study reflected "what Kent Sims considers the negative impacts of the homeless".

THE COUNCIL'S PLAN

At roughly the same time, the Council on Homelessness (which is a different group from the Coalition and includes business organizations among its membership) issued a study of its own, which concludes that City funds would better be spent on efforts to achieve "exits" from homelessness... i.e. jobs and housing.

While the Mayor's study focuses on the negative effect of the visible homeless, Amanda Feinstein of the Council notes "hidden" homeless populations in areas like Golden Gate Park and suggests resources be used to outreach to this population as well as to those who, for one reason or another, avoid existing services.

Although the preponderance of social service professionals interviewed gives rise to a "laundry list" of money-consuming suggestions, the Berkeley researchers commissioned by the Council on Homelessness conclude by triaging these needs to a proposal emphasizing (in order) substance abuse, medical and mental health and shelter.

"Reducing waiting times, allaying fears and generally making services more inviting would accommodate and likely serve many more homeless people," the study suggests... a prospect which stands in direct opposition to the Mayor's study and to supporters of the anti-panhandling campaign like Steve Cornell, past president of the Council of District Merchants, who told KCBS radio that shoppers are abandoning local business districts because

"people don't want to face the reality."

Among the few points of agreement in both studies is that the homeless population and service providers alike are concentrated in the Mission, Tenderloin and South of Market, lower income neighborhoods with high minority populations who lack the skills and political juice of other parts of the City which have mastered the art of discouraging homeless services from being located in their back yards.

Mission businesses are therefore more severely impacted than those in other parts of the City and, indeed, neighborhood concerns have already been directed towards places where the homeless congregate, ranging from public parks and abandoned storefronts to service providers such as Martin de Porres and government offices such as the welfare citadel near the freeway (some functions of which have been relocated a few blocks away to 11th and Harrison).

The homeless themselves complain that police officers rousting them from high-money neighborhoods like Union Street and Union Square have told them to "take their business South of Market". Van der Muhll raises the possibility of the City spending more money to take the homeless to shelters that are already full and either ejecting people who'd thought they'd had a bed for the night or dumping their "surplus" in neighborhoods like the Mission.

Larry Cruz believes the van issue has been unfairly singled out by groups like the Coalition on Homelessness, and denies that people will be turned out of shelters. "The van will target the homeless with physical and mental disabilities for transportation to the two Multi-Service Centers." He promises homeless people already in the shelters will not be turned out, but that a total of four beds will be reserved for those brought in by the vans.

The Council's findings contradict. "Overall, we recommend additional services be given priority over additional outreach." Specifically, says Feinstein, the Mayor's van plan "is bound to fail



without substantive improvements to services."

LET'S MAKE LAWS!

On the 26th, Mayor Jordan also reported that anti-panhandling legislation has been prepared and will be introduced by Sup. Bill Maher in the near future as the first of a series of legislative initiatives aimed at implementing his study conclusions by turning up the heat on the homeless. But it is by no means certain that he has enough votes at the Board of Supervisors to pass them.

When the Board held hearings on homelessness during June (the first of which was a failure because, ironically enough, shelters would not permit the homeless to attend the hearing and reclaim their beds) the option of packing San Francisco's already bulging jails with beggars flew about as high as a factory-farm chicken. Subsequently, a spokesperson for Sup. Carol Migden stated that the Supes were focusing on money management for

the homeless, as well as "employment and economic development".

If homeless people cost business almost \$50,000 each, there would certainly seem to be an incentive to hire them, if only to get them out of people's faces and doorways. But the Mayor's study, tallying up the number of homeless mentally ill, substance abusers, persons with AIDS etc. concludes that "90% of San Francisco's homeless population currently may be incapable of holding a job."

Amanda Feinstein, however, alleges that local vocational service providers believe as many as two thirds of the homeless are employable. "Twenty years ago, people with disabilities were also stereotyped as unemployable," she said.

"The way to reduce the impact of the homeless on business is to alleviate homelessness which means permanent housing and job opportunities," says van der Muhll. "And all of these things take money and there is no way around it."



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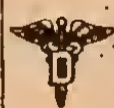


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JOE DEL CARLO REMEMBERED

by Lisa Hamburger

CARVING THE PATH

The Mission District, while chronically doing with less than its fair share of the wealth, was enriched for many years by one exceptionally committed man, Joe Del Carlo. Joe died unexpectedly late last month, leaving behind his wife Juanita, son Larry, daughter Joan and his 7 grandchildren.

Joe's unexpected death has left many in the Mission taking inventory of the real changes which have occurred since the revolutionary days of "people power" and the deeds still left to do.

Joe Del Carlo was a native San Franciscan. In 1946, after serving as a Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II, Joe made his home in the Mission District. Joe quietly lived his life in the Mission, working in a local shipyard, marrying Juanita, and soon after raising a family. He was a parishioner at St. Peters Catholic Church on 24th Street.

In the mid 1960's, however, San Francisco, and the Bay Area as a whole, served as the staging area for many public issues of the time. The labor movement, which deeply influenced Joe, and the emerging civil rights battle found fertile ground in the Mission District. People gathered often to discuss, argue and resolve the problems confronting their home, their community, the Mission.

No threat was perhaps as great as the fear that the City intended to bulldoze the Mission and create an urban renewal area for the downtown crowd. The historic place of the Mission District, where immigrants, foreign or otherwise, could come to the City and get a good start, was endangered.

Joe Del Carlo and other community leaders, representing 60 different neighborhood organizations, gathered in October of 1968 to create the Mission Coalition Organization.

Based on the principles of self-determination and action, the MCO quickly became one of the most powerful community organizations in the country. It was non-violent, multi-issue and all inclusive.

Those who now question how 25 people can manage 6 committees in the current Mayor's Task Force on the Mission, should have asked Joe how to do it. The MCO could mobilize 700 people, under the leadership of 12 committees, 7 executive vice-presidents

and 10 vice-presidents representing different nationalities.

Joe served as the MCO's Finance Committee Chairman, organizing major fundraising activities. The MCO could not truly be a product of the people, by and for the people, unless it paid its own way.

Joe was instrumental in many of the MCO's actions, too. He help lead the way for the Mission to become a Model Cities area, thus bringing in Federal dollars to start an array of social service programs. These included the

Mission...

Community Legal Defense,
Education Project,
Hiring Hall,
Housing Development Corp,
Language and Vocational School,
Neighborhood Health Center, and
Reading Clinic

Not only were these organizations created, their board of directors were Mission-based and, therefore, controlled by the people to be served. Joe's legacy is evident in that all these organizations are successfully in operation today.

Joe led the way in many other MCO activities. Pawn shops were stopped from relocating to the Mission. The old Regale Pale Brewery, an abandoned, rat infested eye-sore, which was located at Harrison and 20th Street, was torn down. Now, its the site of Moscone Elementary School.

Among Joe's favorite actions was the sit-in at Wonder Bread/Hostess Cupcakes. Organized by his activist son, Larry, the duo led the drive to create 77 jobs for youth during the summer of 1970.

Never stopping longer than needed to catch his breath, Joe was appointed by Mayor Alioto to the board of directors of Mission Housing Development Corporation in 1972. And in March of that year, the board elected him to serve as their Chairperson.

Under Joe's leadership, MHDC acquired 6 construction sites and completed 232 new units of housing. Fourteen vacant or substandard properties were also purchased and rehabilitated. All told more than 1,250 senior households and families were given a chance to raise their families and participate in the community. In 1990, MHDC bid a fond farewell to Joe Del Carlo after 18 years as its Chairman.



Joseph Anthony Del Carlo July 11, 1926 - June 23, 1992

Kerry's Restaurant, a local hangout for tired organizers and would be politicians, will be home to 25 low-income families. When MHDC started construction last year, Joe was surprised to learn that it would be called the Del Carlo Court. Joe took his volunteerism in stride, it was part of him, of being human and of humanity. Personal gain had no place in Joe's community activities.

He was shy about praise. Most recently, Joe was honored by Mission Language and Vocational School during their 20th anniversary celebration. Many of us last saw Joe on this most special of occasions. It is a fitting memory to remember him laughing, dining with his close friends, being

thanked, and in Joe's characteristic style, passing on his thanks to all of us.

Joe's years of dedication have created a lasting legacy of purpose for all those who work to better the Mission District...show up, take action, serve those most in need with dignity, be humble.

The Del Carlo family and the Mission lost a true friend and hero. And for his dedication, Joe will be rewarded with immortality, not only in our hearts and those of the people he helped, but as an ever present spiritual guide.

- *May God Bless You and Keep You*

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LONG HOT SUMMER

continued from page 1

Glenda Powell of Inner Mission Neighbors asked if the program schedules were given to parents in public housing projects. The Park & Rec Recreation Director, Joel Robinson, said that was being done. "We have a direct line to tenant associations in the projects," said Robinson. Powell countered that "as someone living very close to the Bernal Dwellings Projects, I can see that's not working. Something else needs to be done."

A second issue that arose at the meeting was that of the amount of time devoted to and the time of day set aside for particular things. Esquerro questioned the logic of weight training classes held between 10 AM and noon and said "We

need to look at how all facilities in the Mission are coordinated.

Karla Castillo of YWCA Girls' Services objected to the limited swimming hours (7 AM to noon) at Garfield Pool. The mother of a teenager asked why there were no activities for a single age group throughout the day at any given facility. Burns responded to these criticisms by promising to establish a Teen Council composed of Mission District youth to help with the planning process in the future.

For some of those in attendance, Park & Rec's commitment to the Mission was too long in coming. "Why hasn't all this been done before?" longtime Mission activist Maria de Columbia demanded to

know. "It's because big city institutions tend to insulate themselves. They don't want to be inundated by 12,000 Mission kids. They want to keep their jobs easy."

Antonio Chavez of the Chicano Moratorium told Burns "You guys haven't been paying your dues to this community. This is all long overdue! Our youth are dying and that's the only reason we see you here."

Burns responded by saying "There is a tremendous willingness of the Department to work with the community. Otherwise we'd be back where we were a year ago."

NUMBERS GAME

The meeting was organized by the Youth and Recreation Committee of the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission. In April, the Task Force had given Burns a vote of no confidence in regards to Park & Rec job performance in the Mission. The June 18th meeting was intended to assuage community displeasure with Burns and her department. Obviously there's a lot of mending to be done on that particular fence.

Frank Lopez, who co-chairs the Youth Committee felt one of the problems in evaluating Park & Rec's outreach to the community was an unrealistic assessment of how many kids are actually in these programs. "I've been down to Mission Rec Center on many different occasions and have never seen more than 20 kids in the building."

Park and Rec claims upwards of 100 kids per day use Mission Rec but "Even if that were true," Lopez says, "that's far too few kids for that large a facility." (A June 22nd visit to a Marshall School program by Task Force member Mary Hardin revealed the involvement of only a dozen students, which would seem to belie a Park and Rec claim of 40-50 participants.)

Lopez blames the failure of Park & Rec to reach Mission kids on bureaucratic indolence. "It's the mindset of the workers: These guys have a pervasively negative Civil Service mentality that says 'Why serve 50 clients when you get the same pay for serving 15?' Unfortunately, in this neighborhood, you have people that are so disenfranchised they don't know they have the right to complain."

Lopez sees his job on the Task Force as empowering these people. His committee will attempt to verify Park & Rec participation claims as the summer programs get underway.

MISSION RECREATION PROJECT

The problems with Youth services in the Mission illustrate the more-general tendency of a centralized bureaucracy out of touch with the community it is intended to serve. The most comprehensive approach, so far, has come from the Real Alternative Program (RAP), a community based non-profit organization dealing with youth issues with a special emphasis on gang prevention.

RAP, beginning this month, will initiate 5 nights of late night sports at Mission Rec Center as part of a program whereby RAP will be the central element of "an intersegmental network of city agencies, schools, community-based organizations and businesses" according to a draft proposal that would transfer the now quiescent Mission Rec Center into The Mission Recreation Project: Youth and Family Multiservice Center (MRP).

The initial target group to be included in this project consists of 200 at-risk youth aged 11-17 and their families. These are mostly Central American refugees whose kids constitute the majority of memberships in the Mission's six Latino youth gangs.

It is a collaborative effort between a City department (Park & Rec) that has resources but no viable outreach and a community organization (RAP) that has a track record two decades long in dealing with gang problems but is resource-poor in terms of facilities and staff. If successful, RAP would establish Mission Rec Center as "neutral turf, a safe place where youth from different groups feel they belong".

RAP's plan would eventually incorporate all youth services now scattered throughout a number of public and private agencies in an ambitious 5 year project which was still being fine tuned at press time.

At the moment RAP, in current efforts at Mission Rec, represents a giant step forward in terms of addressing the community's very serious gang violence problem. RAP's Mitchell Salazar said the last six months have been some of the most difficult in RAP's 20 year history. When asked if gang tension had lessened, Salazar responded "You can tell people it's still hotter than shit out there."



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CARTAGENA SHOW AT PANCCHO VILLA



by Richard Washbourne

Victor Cartagena is a Salvadoran refugee who has lived in the U.S. for seven years. He talks about his work with a modesty and a self-deprecating humor that belies its very powerful emotional impact.

He says he took up painting because he was working in a framing gallery: the move from making frames to making the pictures they contained was a natural progression. He insists that his principle purpose in painting is recreation. He takes two to three months to complete a painting and doesn't really like to sell them: he says he sold one to a friend once, but only after the friend had pestered him for a few years.

I ask him what he thinks are the distinguishing features of his work. "I don't know. I just get the paint brush and start to paint. I never know what's going to

happen."

Yet despite Victor's seemingly light-hearted attitude to his work, his paintings very clearly draw on the Salvadorean experience of state-sponsored terror against the poor. He presents us with images of Indian and Mestizo peasants who look around with fearful and furtive glances, as if they expect to be shot in the back; he portrays crouched, wretched yet uncomprehending children, nervous trigger-happy boy soldiers and exhausted, scarred rebels.

Perhaps the most disturbing element in his work is that nearly all his figures have one or more limbs missing. This isn't just a surrealist stylistic conceit; war and torture have left huge numbers of Salvadoreans maimed.

Victor Cartagena's work will be on display in Pancho Villa's, 3071 - 16th. St. during July.

26th St CLOSURE DISPUTE MAY DELAY PROJECTS REHAB

by Joseph Entin

As the San Francisco Housing Authority prepares the Bernal Dwellings' comprehensive renovation plan for presentation to community groups and residents of the development in mid-July, the status of 26th Street, which is closed off between Treat and Harrison Street, is emerging as a point of contention that may ultimately delay the City Planning Department's final approval of the Authority's multi-million dollar plan to modernize the Dwellings.

26th Street, which runs along the eastern edge of Bernal Dwellings, is

blocked off midway between Treat and Harrison Street by a pedestrian zone and a blacktop basketball court. The corner of Treat and 26th has flourished into a center for illegal drug sales and some Mission residents feel the dead-end configuration of the street is to blame.

Members of the Inner-Mission Neighbors are using the design of 26th Street as a springboard to draw notice to the drug problems in the area and to co-opt some of the attention which the Housing Authority's renovation plan has focused on the neighborhood. The Housing Authority plan itself does not propose any changes

to 26th Street.

"Many mornings I have to wait in line before leaving for work because the dealers have so many cars lined up to buy drugs," says Glenda Powell, a member of the Inner-Mission Neighbors who lives near the corner of Treat and 26th.

Powell feels that increased traffic flow from opening up the street — in conjunction with increased police intervention — will flush out the drug sellers. Currently, the congestion at the cramped corner of 26th and Treat provides camouflage for drug deals as well as a prime vantage point for viewing approaching traffic from both Folsom and Harrison, two major neighborhood arteries.

"My concern is the children. How many kids need to get hit by cars before they permanently close the street?" says Letonia Murdock, President of the Bernal Dwelling Tenants Association, a group which wants to preserve the pedestrian and play space which the closed street allows.

In many ways, the argument over the layout of the street is an outlet for the expression of deeper concerns about the neighborhood. Powell, one of the most strident advocates of opening 26th Street, admits that the street design is a secondary concern compared to the need for a more active Police presence in the neighborhood: "It doesn't matter if the street is open or closed if police don't patrol the area and enforce the law," Powell comments. "I have to admit I have never seen a policeman walking that area."

"There's bigger issues to opening 26th Street — [opening the street] is not going to stop the economic plight of the people in the area or stop the drug dealing. It's a step and I can understand that people in the neighborhood feel frustrated, that they must do something to change the present situation," comments Joe Clemens of the Mission District Police Station.

If it escalates, the commotion over 26th Street could potentially disrupt the plan's passage through the City Planning Department, according to one City planner.

"During remodeling discussions with Planning, I'm sure [the 26th Street] issue will surface and could slow the Housing Authority's application for a building permit," surmised Angelica Chiong, the Planning Department's Mission district representative.

One form such a delay could take is "discretionary review", a process through which the Planning Commission can review — and potentially alter — a plan or project which has already passed muster under design and zoning codes. If the Inner-Mission neighbors, and other Mission residents, don't feel that the Bernal Dwelling rehabilitation plan addresses some of their concerns about the area, they could pressure the Planning Commission to initiate a discretionary review, which would delay the plan's approval and place the plan in the political spotlight.

"26th Street could be a leverage point for some changes in the buildings or the structure of the plan," Chiong commented. "There is going to be a great deal of [community] involvement. There will be pressure for the Planning Commission to take some action. They will most likely take some review of the Plan and 26th Street."

YOUTH SOCCER KICKS OFF

The Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL) appears to have gotten the ball rolling with nearly 350 youths age six to 19 signed up for the June, 1993, according to MYSL President Larry Kischmischian.

Through weekly meetings, clinics that include members of the San Francisco Bay Blackhawks and a recent player evaluation day at Mission High, the MYSL has laid the groundwork for their program.

One of the main objectives is to keep Mission District youngsters off the streets and out of trouble.

"Right now, we're trying to make sure we always have something going on so we can keep the kids interested in soccer," said Juan Gonzalez, an MYSL coach.

Kischmischian said that the MYSL leaders also intend to have their players involved with the community.

We'd like to get some support from the business community. To get more exposure, we've lined up a Street Sweep this month in the Excelsior," said Kischmischian.

Kischmischian said noticeable progress as been made since the MYSL was formed last January. He emphasized, however, that funding for the non-profit program from both the public and private sectors are desperately needed.

"If anyone can donate some pylons or even a soccer ball, it would really help us out since we're starting from scratch," said Kischmischian.

The MYSL meets each Tuesday at 7 PM at 745 Treat Street and is open to the public. For more information, call (415) 878-1170.

ALBION STREET UNITES

by Mark Rutherford

Members of the Albion-Camp Neighborhood Association (ACNA) resolved last Monday night to follow the lead of other neighborhood groups and resort to civil litigation if area landlords continued to allow drug dealing and other objectionable behavior on their property.

The strategy entails suing negligent landlords in small claims court, a tactic that has met with success in Berkeley and on Frederick Street in the Haight Ashbury. One Berkeley apartment owner was ordered to pay \$218,325 in compensation to 75 neighbors affected by drug dealing on his property.

Atop the list are apartment houses at 140 and 165 Albion Street where drug dealing, public drinking and "intolerable noise" go on at all hours of the day and night according to ACNA members.

"The inaction of these landlords is interfering with the quiet enjoyment of our property," ACNA steering committee member Alex Boise said.

Members are assembling evidence of criminal activities and have written to

Mayor Jordan, complaining of the "excessive number of residents" and "known history of code violations" at 165 Albion.

The building's owner, Adan Ramirez, was not available for comment. However, San Francisco Bureau of Building Inspection records reveal that, although 165 Albion had been cited for code violations in the past, all violations had been corrected and the building was now in compliance.

Boise places part of the blame for neighborhood conditions on the disproportionate number of residential hotels, halfway houses and homeless persons in the 16th and Mission streets area.



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FROM WHERE I SIT

by Mayor Frank Jordan

In the five months I've been Mayor, no issue — no challenge — has more occupied my time than the city budget for fiscal 1992-93. I have now submitted it to the Supervisors. It is balanced, it is prudent, and it is only the beginning of far-reaching reforms and reductions to cut the cost of city government.

My taking charge of the budget in January was akin to taking command of a ship wallowing and ready to capsize. A deep and on-going recession deprived us of needed revenue, and there were heavy

debts carried over from before I became Mayor. These include \$60 million in frozen wages that now must be paid; about \$14 million a year in multi-year commitments to a dental plan; other benefits in exchange for a one-year wage freeze; and promises to fund programs or roll back revenue sources. These commitments now are due on my watch.

Not only was I confronted with a current budget plunging into deficit — some \$61 million has to be found simply to bring it into balance — but also a

growing and dangerous imbalance in the fiscal year ahead. First, it was \$90 million out of balance; then \$150 million. In the end, the shortfall that threatened to sink the budget for the coming fiscal year totaled \$175 million.

I am casting no blame, but simply asserting my commitment to restore San Francisco's fiscal solvency in full cooperation with business, labor, my colleagues in government and the citizens of San Francisco.

The proposed budget is \$9 million more than the current one in its dependence on the general fund monies raised here in San Francisco, even taking into account over \$100 million in wage increases and other cost increases. Unlike past years, there was no pot of money at the end of a rainbow to balance the budget.

Some of the cuts are deep and painful, but at the same time, I am confident that in bringing this budget into balance terrible and destructive cuts were avoided. No libraries or health clinics will be closed. No MUNI lines will be abandoned. There was no reduction in AIDS services. There will be no reduction in police officers on our streets.

I said in my campaign that I would not seek to increase taxes. But in this budget, I have had to increase taxes. There is no reasonable alternative. Therefore, after reaching a consensus with the business community, I am calling for a one-time, one-year increase in the commercial utility users' tax, and its extension to foreign and interstate calls. This should raise an estimated \$11 million to close the last remaining gap in the budget.

This is a budget with pain and sacrifice. But it is a responsible budget. Although vital services are maintained, new and important programs are deferred. Fares and fees have been increased. The business community has stepped forward to accept a one-year tax increase. Labor has contributed significantly to bring this budget into balance.

This cooperative effort, which puts the common good of the City ahead of private gain and special interest, is like a banner unfurled. It proclaims a restoration of pride and confidence in our City — in our ability to work together and to achieve great things together.

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ANOTHER SPORTS PALACE WEIGHTLIFTER MAKES U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM

by Jeff Carter

Now that he's made the '92 Olympic team, David Langon has to shoulder a lot of weight — literally.

Langon, a 215-pound weightlifter from Castro Valley who trains regularly at the Sports Palace, will be competing in his first Olympics this month in the 220-pound division at the games in Barcelona, Spain.

Mario Martinez, Langon's Olympic teammate who is also from the Sports Palace stable, is expected to medal. Langon's chances, however, are not quite as good, according to his mentor, Jim Schmitz.

"We'd be real happy if David placed eighth or better. He's in a real tough division," said Schmitz. "Even if he finished further down but still established a lifetime best it would make the trip a success."

Schmitz, who opened the Sports Palace in 1968, is an assistant coach on this year's Olympic team. He was the head weightlifting coach for the 1980 and 1988 Olympic teams.

Schmitz expects a big effort from the ironman as Langon, an alternate for the 1988 Olympic team, is usually at his best when the stakes are at their highest.

"David has a knack for coming through in the big competitions. He really was on his game when he qualified for this year's team," said Schmitz.

Langon qualified at the Olympic Trials in Peoria, Illinois last May with a combined lift of 775 1/2 pounds. At that competition he equalled his lifetime best in

Photo by Frances Barajas-Lana



David Langon goes for the gold by pumping iron.

the clean and jerk with a 435 pound lift.

His best effort in the snatch came in 1989 when he lifted 347 pounds.

Langon, who has had shoulder problems since 1989, underwent surgery last September, appears to have fully recovered from that setback.

"When he (Langon) came from behind to qualify for the team, that's when I knew he had made it all the way back (from the injury)," Schmitz said.

Initially, Langon didn't appear to be much of an Olympic hopeful when he first started lifting in 1980.

In fact, he still takes some ribbing from Rachel Silverman, a 114-pound national women's champion who outlifted him in his early days.

Then, starting in 1985, Langon began showing signs of promise as he set various records en route to claiming three consecutive Junior National titles from

1985 to 1987.

"I thought I'd win the 1988 nationals," Langon said, "but I didn't lift as well as I should have and finished second. The same thing happened at the '88 Olympic Trials."

Although he was selected as an alternate, Langon didn't compete at the '88 games. He did benefit from the experience, though.

"It was a great experience just watching," he said, "but it was hard after I got back. I'd say I'd been at the Olympics, people would ask how I did and I'd have to say, 'Well, I didn't compete.'"

Langon's cheering section will include his father, John Langon, who owns a Castro Valley construction company, his mother, Renee Langon, brothers Joey and Michael and his sister, Amy.

Langon has certainly come a long way from that Hayward garage where he used to work out. Now that he trains out of the Sports Palace, he's become part of the reputation that surrounds the gym on Valencia Street. His picture is among the many other champions who grace what is known as the "Wall of Fame".

The Sports Palace has become a mecca for Olympic-style weightlifters, as well as powerlifters and bodybuilders.

Gold's Gym may be more famous in terms of popularity, but it's about as closely related to the Sports Palace as Danny DeVito is to Arnold Schwarzenegger in real life.

Let's be honest," said Schmitz, "the place (Sports Palace) smells like sweat and joek straps. There's no pretense here. This is the place where serious weightlifters come to train."

Over the years, the Sports Palace has won an unprecedented seven national team championships and has placed nine men on six different Olympic teams, according to Schmitz, who has been the president of the United States Weightlifting Federation (USWF) since 1988.

In addition, there have been 17 different men who have won 50 individual titles.

"We don't train champions in 'pretty sports'," said Schmitz. "The Sports Palace isn't a place where people come to check out other people's pees (chests)."

Schmitz said that he'd rather spend quality time working with and developing a few individuals rather than dealing with sheer volume, like Gold's Gym, for example.

"I don't want a fancy club. Besides, it's just not financially feasible. I've made some personal sacrifices along the way, but being part of the the Olympic experience makes it all worth while," said Schmitz.

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Summer 1992

We Believe You Anita!

On May 30th, at a special ceremony hosted by the 1992 graduating class of the New College School of Law, Anita Hill was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law. She was being honored, in the words of New College President Peter Gabel, "for her courage, her integrity and her willingness to speak up on behalf of all women against the indignity and injustice of sexual harassment. Her presence and her words at the Clarence Thomas' hearings provide an example of how one person can, at a critical moment, transform a legal proceeding so as to affect the consciousness of an entire nation."

The idea that New College should bestow honorary degrees can sometimes appear contradictory to its non-traditional approach to education. However, it became apparent to many in 1987, when the likes of Edward Teller (founder of the atom bomb), George Schultz, and Oliver North received honorary doctorates, that graduations were simultaneously academic and ideological events, and that New College had a role to play. So that year, New College began its own list of honorary alumni with Jackson Browne, Ron Dellums and Benjamin Linder, the young engineer killed by the contras in Nicaragua. The list has grown since then to include Dolores Huerta, Abbie Hoffman, Brian Wilson, Frances Moore Lappe, Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe of Roe v. Wade) and defense attorney Charles Garry.



Peter Gabel awards degree to Anita

That New College would honor Hill this year began to develop last fall. Rarely does anyone see a television on at the school, but last October they were everywhere during the Thomas hearings and particularly as Anita Hill began to testify. The effect was best described by Roberta Achtenberg, former Dean of the Law School, currently a New College trustee and San Francisco Supervisor — "She seared into our consciousness an image of quiet female strength so profound, so uplifting that we, all of us, will somehow never be the same for having witnessed it." In November, Susan

Hamilton, a New College graduate and wife of Tom Parsons, Prior Learning Coordinator, asked her friend and colleague, Judge Susan Hoerchner, who had testified in support of Hill, to speak in a New College 20th Anniversary lecture series. Hoerchner's experience of New College was very positive and when Gabel asked her to approach Hill about the honorary degree, she eagerly did so. Although she has received many offers, this is the only public engagement which Hill accepted.

There were several introductions to the awarding of the degree. Hoerchner, a friend of Hill's since Law School, spoke of the woman she knew back then as "a trusted friend and confidante of both men and women of different races and from different economic backgrounds." She said Hill "did not choose the issue of sexual harassment as her issue... Rather it was Clarence Thomas and the Senate Judiciary committee. But most importantly, it was the facts of the lives of millions of women in the workplace which chose sexual harassment as her issue."

Roberta Achtenberg began by noting with pride her long involvement with New College and which now, as a trustee of the college, "gives her great solace to be a member of a college which reveres progressive social action." Obviously moved, she continued "when it comes time to tell my son of a life well lived, so that others will suffer less, I will tell him not only of Abraham, Martin, John, Bobby, and Rosa, but also of Anita, that he may know of one, who did her part, to change all our hearts and minds."

After a reader's theater by the Law School graduating class, Peter Gabel returned to the podium with the degree in hand. He began by reviewing her background. Anita came from a family of 13 children in Oklahoma, went to the University of Oklahoma, Yale Law School, the EEOC and to Oklahoma to become a law professor there. He ending his introduction by reading the inscription which he had drafted to appear on the degree:

"In recognition of your courage and integrity in coming forward at an extraordinary historical moment to speak up for all women against the injustice and indignity of sexual harassment, and

In recognition of your having reminded an entire nation that authenticity of presence and word is more powerful than a Senate panel, a Supreme Court, or any other symbol of social authority,



And in recognition of your having served as a model for all of us that we, too, can find the strength to oppose the abusive exercise of power, wherever we are and whatever our circumstances.

Thereby demonstrating the highest of human endeavors that New College respects and seeks to inspire: the integration of one's beliefs, talents, and abilities with direct action in pursuit of a more humane world."

— May 30, 1992

After a lengthy standing ovation, Hill began her address by noting that "I feel a part of New College now with or without the honorary degree". Her acceptance speech was passionate, detailed, and wide ranging in its political meaning. The speech was made all the more profound by that same calmness of bearing and presentation seen under fire at the hearings. She spoke of the hearings, "many things were lacking ... but one thing that was most apparent was the unwillingness of power to tolerate dissent". She spoke also of her role now in representing others. "The message I received clearly from literally thousands of people was that many heard my voice, many found their own voice in mine ... I am empowered by you to respond to the stories of harassment, abuse and even rape with the message that someone is listening and able to hear the voices that for so long have been silenced".

She spoke of the relationship of her situation to that of the Los Angeles verdict and Rodney King "when truth is denied, myths, most often aimed at discrediting society's least powerful, prevail. I remind you of that snapshot which was replayed ... six months later with regard to Black males — it is not anything new ... and unfortunately, unless we see some changes in our society, it is a picture which I am afraid will be replayed over and over again." She then spoke of the role of the courts in institutionalizing, through its decisions, a prejudice against women and African Americans

Hill then addressed the need for unity, rather than division, amongst groups organizing for change. "One of the things it has become popular to do is to compare oppression... I think that it is ultimately counterproductive, because if we start to compare oppression, then we start to rank oppression. And once we start to rank, then we have to decide which oppression must end, and I think all oppression is invalid. It all must end."



Judge Hoerchner and Roberta Achtenberg with Anita Hill at the ceremony

She ended her remarks on an optimistic and challenging note. "We must be upfront; we must be positive and we must be diligent". She urged the graduates and the community of New College to accept the challenges for progressive change when they appear "even when the world turns against you". The standing ovation that she received in concluding her speech matched that of her entry into the hall. Afterwards she graciously received a lengthy line of graduates, admirers and well wishers from New College. Still later, at a reception held by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi she urged a gathering of influential local leaders, including Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, to support New College and other institutions which are taking the lead in so many areas of progressive social and cultural change

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GRADUATION '92

Encuentro !



African American poet, essayist and novelist June Jordan



Pat Williams, University of Wisconsin law professor and author

LAW

The commencement speaker for the Law School graduation ceremony this year was Pat Williams, University of Wisconsin law professor and author of *The Alchemy of Race and Rights: The Autobiography of a Law Professor*. Professor Williams has also taught at CUNY and Stanford, and this year is teaching at both Columbia and Harvard.

Williams address to the graduates focused on four points. First, that they, as newly graduating lawyers, are inheriting a truly insane world. But two, precisely because this is so, they should seriously and critically assess the meaning of the words sane and insane, as well as, other characterizations of deviance when seeking to make rational sense of the world. All is not as it is said to be by those who are able to have a voice in this culture. Thirdly, that this phenomenon is especially true of the language of law, which is a language of power and through its discourse able to construct, not only the meaning of actions, but action itself. And fourth, that as graduates of a law school, especially one such as New College, they hold a place of power in the world and should work to maintain the commitment to social justice which they brought to New College and which this institution does its best to enhance



Milly Henry reads teaching award to David Meltzer.

PSYCHOLOGY

African American poet, essayist and novelist June Jordan spoke to the Tenth Anniversary graduating class of the Graduate Program in Psychology. Professor Jordan is the recipient of many prestigious grants and awards including a Rockefeller grant in creative writing, the Prix de Rome in environmental design, and has been a finalist for a National Book Award. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in poetry, and a Massachusetts Council for the Arts Award. In addition to her writing, she is a political activist, works in film and city planning, and is currently a professor in the African American Studies Program at Berkeley, having also taught at Sarah Lawrence and Yale.

Professor Jordan, described by Alice Walker as "among the bravest, and the most outraged" commended the graduates for their desire to help those who suffer from "the ignorance and slavery" of the "internal tyranny of the unconscious", of "destructive and uncontrollable social histories". She praised them for their commitment for undertaking the "sacred task of community love". And finally, in recognition of the political content of the program, Jordan encouraged students to not allow the rage of the dispossessed to be explained away by some reactionary psychology, but to help "deepen the warrior spirit" to change the world.



Poet/teacher David Meltzer

HUMANITIES

At this years graduation, David Meltzer, Core Faculty member in Writing and Literature, as well as, Poetics was awarded a newly established Award for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities. In addition to his teaching skills exhibited in over ten years of teaching at New College, David is the author of many books of poetry, the most recent being *The Name: Selected Poetry 1973-1983* and the forthcoming *Arrows: Selected Poetry 1983-1989*. David is also a member of the Before Columbus Foundation, a writers' organization devoted to the promotion of multicultural literatures.

New College
of CALIFORNIA

The Spring Semester ended with another exciting arts Encuentro featuring student presentations in performance and jazz, as well as, drawing, printmaking and video exhibits.



NEW SOCIAL CHANGE & ACTIVISM PATHWAY APPROVED FOR HUMANITIES PROGRAM

"Coming here and getting information and going back and teaching it"

— Charges filed by National Guard against Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School during the Wilder mine strike in 1938

Drawing upon the spirit of Highlander for inspiration and the twenty three years of success of the Community Studies Program at Santa Cruz as a model, the Humanities faculty has approved a new track - The Social Change and Activism Pathway - to focus and enhance its activist dimension of education and social change. The pathway will seek to link pedagogy, curriculum planning, and advising in a very direct way with social change movements outside the school by emphasizing learning through the integration of theory and practice. This is achieved by students participating in a four course sequence, highlighted by an intensive activist field study done in a community setting.

The Highlander Folk School began in Tennessee in 1932 as a way for education to play a role in helping working people in the South solve social problems and take control of their lives. In the 50's and 60's, it played this role for the civil rights movement, and since the early 1970's, has worked with communities around issues of the environment and community based economic development. The idea of doing an urban Highlander in San Francisco first arose in 1989. New College sponsored a Highlander Week of political and cultural organizing workshops with the Directors and staff from Highlander. The difficulties in doing such a project are many, not the least of which is that, unlike Highlander, New College is an accredited, degree granting institution and the Highlander model does not, therefore, translate directly.

It was not until the summer of 1991 that some faculty members were able to address these problems. A breakthrough came when Jon Garfield, Guy Benjamin and Michael McAvoy visited the Community Studies Program at UC Santa Cruz. Based on their meeting with Michael Rotkin, the Community Studies Field Study Coordinator, it appeared that this model could work well at New College and provide a structure to carry out activist education on an undergraduate level.

This past fall, they drafted a proposal and, after some debate and revision, the project was approved by the full faculty to begin in the Fall 1992. Students at New College can develop an activist focus in any of the Humanities Program areas — Anthropology, Arts and

Social Change, Ecology, Indian Justice, Integrated Health Studies, Jazz Studies, Latin American Studies, Poetics, Psychology, Spirit in Society, Psychology, and Writing and Literature — by choosing the *Social Change and Activism Pathway* as a way to complete their degree.

Students link theory and practice by combining coursework, independent studies, tutorials and even prior learning credit in their area of study with the four courses of the SCA sequence. The culmination is a Senior Project based on an intensive field study done in a community setting. The four courses of the SCA sequence are:

HUMANITIES II: ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE

This course, required of all Humanities students, explores the integration of theory and practice in creating social change. A range of guest activists, intellectuals and organizers from the community are incorporated.

PREPARATION FOR FIELD STUDY

Students learn the basic skills of field work, organizational analysis, community-based participatory research and develop a proposal for their SCA field study. Students learn to take field notes, do interviews, demystify social data, ask important ethical and political questions regarding research and learn to develop bibliographic resources.

SOCIAL CHANGE AND ACTIVISM FIELD STUDY

Working with a faculty member, a community based field placement is selected by the student from one offered by a wide range of community organizations approved for the program. Students may also design their own community project with their advisor.

SCA SENIOR PROJECT

This course is for those who have completed their field study. Students critically reflect upon their field experience examining important theoretical and practical questions, develop a social and political analysis of their placement and its community context and complete the project in the form of a written thesis or some alternative such as a video production, cultural performance, grant proposal etc.

An important goal of the program is the preparation of students for socially responsible careers in the community. Internships provide practical learning experience, which when combined with curricular offering in their area of interest, facilitate career development. Students will be prepared to enter the world of work as community organizers, program coordinators in public agencies, organizers in cultural, labor and community settings, while others can continue study in graduate school in areas such as public administration, social work, law school, public health and other health careers, teaching credential programs, as well as, more traditional academic areas. The Social Change and Activism Pathway will maintain graduate school and career information, as well as, offer workshops on alternative and public interest careers.

For many years, the academic interest in the dialectic between theory and practice has focused on the notion of the "reflective practitioner". The goal has been to provide the space and time to consider actions taken, to question their motive and efficacy, in order to offer a corrective on previous practice. In part, the impetus behind the Social Change and Activism Pathway has been the reverse — to get students and faculty out of the classroom and into the community — to create the "activist academic" in order that theory is informed by action.

HARRY BRITT ACCEPTS HARVEY MILK CHAIR AT NEW COLLEGE



Ruberta Achtenberg and Peter Gabel join Britt at press conference announcing the Harvey Milk Chair.

On June 3rd, in a press conference held at City Hall, Harry Britt, senior member of the Board of Supervisors, announced that he would accept the offer from Peter Gabel, New College President to become the school's first Harvey Milk Professor of Humanities and Social Activism. Britt, at the podium with Gabel, Supervisor Ruberta Achtenberg and Sheriff Michael Hennessy, who are both New College Trustees, Humanities Dean Milly Henry and Weekend College Director Alec McLend, commented in accepting this position that while he often felt comfortable in his position as Supervisor, he always felt comfortable in the role of social thinker and educator. Britt will teach Lesbian and Gay seminars in the Weekend college. In the undergraduate Humanities Program, he will teach, as well as, advise students and assist in the development of activist internships.

Harry Britt grew up in the fifties. The son of a Texas oil worker, his parents' primary experience of the world was the Great Depression. Its difficulties and contradictions informed much of their lives. With this heritage, and a National Merit Scholarship, he left Texas for Duke University seeking to do great things and make the world a better place. Although Duke in the late fifties was not a hotbed of radicalism, he did acquire his first experience with the civil rights movement through the racial integration activities of the YMCA on campus.

After graduating from Duke in 1960, Britt went on to graduate school at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. It was there that he began to discover the importance of theory. From SMU, he went on to further graduate work at Heidelberg University in Germany where he became a student of the Old Testament. Upon returning to the U.S., he enrolled at the University of Chicago to study Philosophy and Religion with people such as Hannah Arendt, Paul Tillich and scholar of mythology and culture, Mircea Eliade.

But in the Chicago of the Sixties, as in many places, the boundaries between scholarly work and social change began to blur. While pastoring a small congregation in racially divided urban Chicago, he felt it necessary to become involved in community organizing and the civil rights movement. It was there he met and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King and met a very young Jesse Jackson. He also learned first hand, though not always from positive experience, about political strategy from his community's struggles with the Richard Daly machine.

Harry left Chicago for San Francisco in 1974. It was then that he came out as a gay man at the age of 34. He worked as a bellhop and as a letter carrier. Through his work delivering mail in a variety of communities, he discovered the diversity of San Francisco's population which would so well inform his service as Supervisor in the near future.

He began doing political work here preceding the 1976 Presidential campaign. It was then that he met Harvey Milk and formed a working relationship and friendship. He became a member of DSOX (Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee) and formed another friendship with Jim Shock of the New American Movement, who later became the Western Regional Coordinator of the Democratic Socialists of America. He also worked with Tom Hayden and his Campaign for Economic Democracy, as well as, with the Midwest Academy and Abalone Alliance.

Britt's life was suddenly and dramatically changed by the murder of Harvey Milk. He was appointed Milk's successor and took his place on the Board of Supervisors. For fourteen years, Britt has used his office to initiate and support progressive agendas in the city. These have included Lesbian and Gay rights, comparable worth and AIDS packages, struggles for justice in El Salvador and South Africa, the fight against homeporting the Missouri and many other peace and justice issues. More recently, he has taken on regional planning, in order to ensure that demographic shifts of power away from cities, do not structurally disempower the poor and working classes who remain.

Harry's particular interest in teaching, research and other work as Harvey Milk Chair will focus on alienation and the choices, individual and collective, that those who are alienated from this culture can take to change the social conditions. In part, he will focus on the alienation of Lesbian and Gay culture in a homophobic society and explore past, present and future strategies for change. His course in the Humanities Program will be called The Political Meaning of the Lesbian and Gay Experience. His Weekend College seminars will also focus on this theme. In other work, there is a proposed seminar in Social Change and Activism in which Britt would draw upon his academic and activist knowledge to help students explore the choices available for transformative action. Finally, Britt will assist in the development of activist internships for student practice and Field Study sites in the new Social Change and Activism Pathway.

For New College, in naming a chair of Humanities and Social Activism after someone, there is no more fitting choice than Harvey Milk, who gave his life in the effort. As the first person to occupy that role, there is no better choice than Harry Britt, who more than anyone has earned on Milk's work.

For San Francisco, if Harry eventually leaves his job as Supervisor to be solely at New College, the city will not be losing him. It will merely find him in a new role but still carrying out that work for which he is so uniquely qualified.

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SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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FALL 1992 DAYTIME & EVENING CLASSES

Orientation: 766 Valencia St; Tuesday September 1, 10:30-12:30 pm

Registration : 50 Fell St; Tues. Sept.1, 1-5 p.m.; Wed./Thurs. Sept.2 & 3, 1-6:30 pm

First Day of Classes: Tuesday September 8, 1992

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WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM
JULY 15
AUGUST 5, 19

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Fund.of Social and Cultural Anthropology

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Arts & Social Change
Humanities I: Self & Society
Humanities II: Activism & Social Change
Humanities V - Arts and Imagination
Modes of Social Inquiry

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Jazz Ensemble
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Spanish III
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JULY 1992



☐ **Thur & Fri • July 9 & 10**
THEM!

One of THE classic science fiction films of the 1950s returns to the big screen in a recently discovered 35mm print! The New Mexico desert is the scene of unexplainable, terrifying occurrences leading to the discovery of huge, radioactive mutant ants! Can the world be saved? Starring James Whitmore, James Arness, Edmund Gwenn and Joan Weldon. Directed by Gordon Douglas. B&W 35mm. 94 mins. 1954.

PREMIERE REVIVAL!

THUR at 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00

FRI at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00



☐ **Sat • July 11**
SCIENCE FICTION
MARATHON!

A monstrous marathon of 1950s science fiction films – from the ridiculous to the sublime! Many weird surprises and TONS of cool trailers! Come early, stay late. NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SHOWTIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; PLEASE CALL THE THEATER!

THE AMAZING COLOSSAL MAN

An army officer is exposed to atomic radiation and soon becomes the title character of the film! Watch out everybody! With Glen Langan. Directed by Bert I. Gordon. B&W 80 mins. 1957

1:00

THE BLOB

Teens in a small town battle a monstrous gelatin creature from outer space! Yikes! With Steve McQueen. Directed by Irwin Yeaworth. In Color. 86 mins. 1958

2:40

NIGHT OF THE BLOOD BEAST

An astronaut returns to Earth with murderous alien embryos implanted inside him! With Ed Nelson. Directed by Bernard Kowalski. B&W. 65 mins. 1958.

4:00

IT CONQUERED THE WORLD

A demented scientist inadvertently paves the way for an insidious alien invasion! Very weird. With Peter Graves, Beverly Garland and Lee Van Cleef. Directed by Roger Corman. B&W 68 mins. 1956

5:15

NOT OF THIS EARTH

An alien arrives on Earth in search of the one thing that will sustain him; human blood! Wild! With Paul Birch and Beverly Garland. Directed by Roger Corman. B&W 67 mins. 1957.

6:40

INVASION OF THE BOOY SNATCHERS

One by one the inhabitants of a small California town are taken over by alien seed pods. With Kevin McCarthy and Dana Wynter. Directed by Don Siegel. B&W 80 mins. 1956

8:00

THE WASP WOMAN

A beautiful woman devises a serum from royal wasp jelly in order to retard the ageing process; instead she becomes a murderous wasp-monster! With Susan Cabot. Directed by Roger Corman. B&W. 66 mins. 1959

☐ 9:45

THE BRAIN THAT WOULDN'T DIE

Gory, psychotronic tale of an insane scientist who searches for a body for his decapitated wife! Complete, uncut version! With Jason Evers. Directed by Joseph Green. B&W 81 mins. 1962

☐ 11:00

BRIDE OF THE MONSTER

Unbelievably bizarre opus about deranged scientist wreaking havoc with the help of his enormous assistant and a giant rubber octopus! With Bela Lugosi and Tor Johnson. Directed by Edward D. Wood, Jr. B&W. 69 mins. 1955

☐ 12:30



☐ **Sun • July 12**
GOOD WOMAN OF BANGKOK

A documentary fiction about prostitution as a metaphor for capitalism, here played out across the borders of race and culture, about prostitution as a metaphor for all relations between women and men. Written and directed by Dennis O'Rourke. In Color 35mm. 82 mins. 1991. Australia.

☐ **SUN** at 1:00, 4:30 & 8:00

FLAME IN MY HEART

This provocative film was written by and stars Myriam Mexieres as an actress obsessed by love and its transience. With stunning performances throughout and an elegant camera style, this mesmerizing film traces her downfall and possible recovery. Directed by Alain Tanner. B&W 35mm 110 mins. 1987. France.

☐ **SUN** at 2:30, 6:00 & 9:30



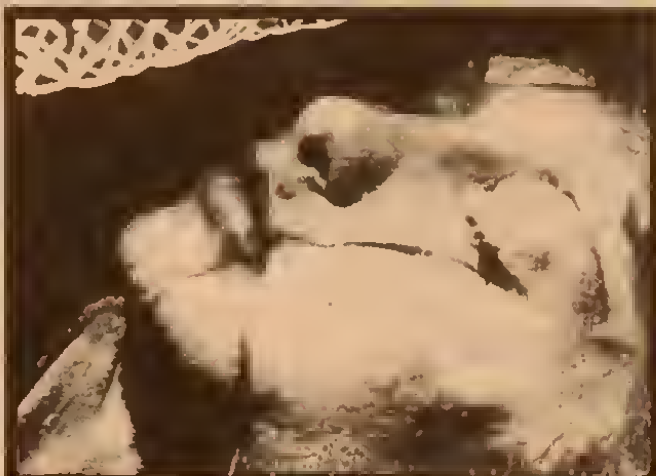
☐ **Mon • July 13**
THE GIVING

Filmed largely on Skid Row in Downtown Los Angeles, **THE GIVING** was created with the involvement of the local homeless community. It tells the story of a successful young executive who confronts a variety of emotions when he becomes entangled with a group of homeless people. **THE GIVING** is not a moral tale with an easy answer but an incisive examination of the complex problem of homelessness told with wit, irony and sensitivity. With Kevin Kildow and Lee Hampton. Written and Directed by Eames Demetrios. B&W 35mm 100 mins. 1992. USA

SPECIAL ADVANCE PREVIEW

MON at 7:00 & 9:15

EAMES DEMETRIOS IN PERSON AFTER EACH SHOW



☐ **Tue • July 14**
Maya Deren!
DIVINE HORSEMEN:
The Living Gods of Haiti

A journey into the fascinating world of the Voodoo religion and the rituals of the Rada, Petro and Congo cults, whose devotees commune with the cosmic powers through invocation, offerings, song and dance. The film's soundtrack conveys the invocatory power of the ritual drumming and singing. Produced by Teiji Ito and Chere! Ito from footage shot by MAYA DEREN in Haiti from 1947-51. In B&W 16mm. 1977

On the same program: **MESHES OF THE AFTERNOON** (1943) and **A STUDY IN CHOREOGRAPHY FOR CAMERA** (1945) Total running time. 75 mins

☐ **TUE** at 6:30, 8:00 & 9:40



☐ **Wed & Thur • July 15 & 16**
Heavy Metal on trial!
DREAM DECEIVERS

DREAM DECEIVERS is the story behind James Vance vs. Judas Priest, it explores the strange case of two teenage boys in Reno, Nevada who shoot their brains out in 1985, one successfully, one less so. Their parents claim that subliminal messages in the songs of heavy metal band Judas Priest mesmerized the boys into self-destruction. It is a chilling trip to the dark side of Wayne's World, weighing rock's impact against the role of parents and issues of censorship. Produced and directed by David Van Taylor. In Color 60 mins. 1991. USA.

Plus short **THE RED BRIDGE**. A weird study in suicide. Directed by Genevieve Mersch. In Color 21 mins. 1991. Belgium/Luxembourg

☐ **WEST COAST THEATRICAL PREMIERE**

☐ **WED** Complete shows at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00

☐ **THUR** Complete shows at 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00



☐ **Fri • July 17 — Thur • July 23**
BOB MARLEY: TIME WILL TELL

This is the first feature length film dedicated to the life and music of Bob Marley. As a singer, songwriter and musician, Marley is the most recognizable reggae artist in the world, having propelled reggae into an international music force that transcended all cultural boundaries. Culled from a variety of sources, **TIME WILL TELL** includes rare performances and never seen before interviews, providing the audience with one of the most exciting and comprehensive portraits of a truly legendary artist. Directed by Declan Lowney. In Color 35mm 90 mins. 1992. Great Britain.

☐ **BAY AREA THEATRICAL PREMIERE**

NIGHTLY at 7:30 & 9:30, additional Sat, Sun, Wed mats at 1:30, 3:30 & 5:30

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by Richard Reineccius

It's a delight to run across good theatre for children, and Teatro Mision, the theatre at the Mission Cultural Center, has found the wonderful bilingual Mascaritas Puppet Theatre group, which performed two cleverly adapted children's tales on two weekends in June, and will do two new shows on the last two weekends of July.

An ingenious child calms and changes the lifestyle of the bad wolf in Norita Gonzales' adaptation of "The Hungry Wolf". Gonzales, who studied art and puppeteering at the national school of dramatic art in Colombia, also adapted the unlikely combination of a Puerto Rican folk song and a Russian tale about the hardships and dreams for the clever "Caps For Sale", in which a street vendor is mugged but recovers his merchandise.

Both were cleverly staged, with masked actors, shadow, rod and hand puppets by the company of four, which includes Norita Gonzales as director and writer, Antonia Gonzales, composer, David White, designer, and young Elisa Lucia, a three year puppeteering veteran, though she's only seven. Charming puppets, charming stories and ditto for the puppeteers.

The two new shows will be at 2:00 PM Saturdays and Sundays, July 18th & 19th and 25th and 26th. Billing for the new shows wasn't available at press times, but may include "The Selfish Giant" (who learns the value of sharing, and of children) and "Madam Scrooga", the Dickens tale adapted as you (nor he) never imagined. Tickets are just \$2 for children, a buck more for big people. Teatro Mision at 2688 Mission can be reached at 695-6970.

MORE TO COME AT THE
MISSION CULTURAL CENTER

Internationally known Ernesto Sanchez plays at 8:30 PM on the same weeks as Mascaritas Puppet Theatre. The show, simply titled "Ernesto Sanchez With Masks", will be on Thursday through Saturday nights, July 16 to 18 and 23 to

25. Sanchez, winner of many awards both here and in Latin America, is seen here for just two weeks in too-rare Bay Area appearances. Tickets are only \$5-10 sliding scale, and if you don't even have a five, you can slide in anyway — nobody turned away. Call 695-6970.

At the end of the month, California Latino writer Ron Conboy's newest play "Dancing With The Missing" will have its premiere in a staged reading by Teatro de la Esperanza, resident theatre group at MCC. It's being directed by Roberto Varela Gutierrez and it's two nights only, July 27th and 28th.

Earlier on the 28th, there'll be a "Sunday Tardeada", a benefit "family dance" with music by Salsa 24. This one sounds like a lot of fun, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM — you can dance or be a wallflower — but it's a benefit, so do cough up the \$5 admission to help keep future programming at the Center.

Finally, Richard Talavera's "eco-comedy in fifty one minute scenes" called "Land" will play at the Teatron July 30, 31 and August 1st. It will also play at a brand new theatre space in The Mission for three weeks before that — the Phil Deal Performance Gallery in Project Artaud, located at the 499 Alabama (at Mariposa) entrance to Artaud, beginning July 9th.

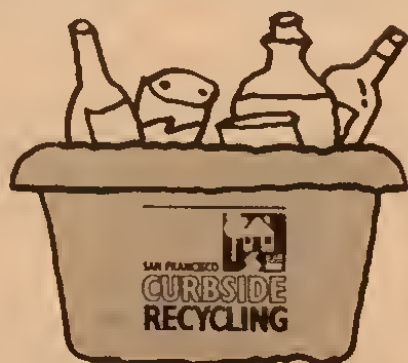
It's got a hot cast: Luis Oropeza, for the past several years in the company of ACT, Tessa Konig-Martinez, who was seen in Esperanza's "Real Women Have Curves" and in The Julian's "The Orgy", and "Brigadista" and "Miss America's Daughters", writer-singer Tanya Shaffer, who started Larger Than Life Productions, the producer of "Land".

For the performances at Phil Deal PG, call 526-7451. Do call, too — seating is limited to 49 persons. For the three performances at Teatro Mision, call 695-6970.

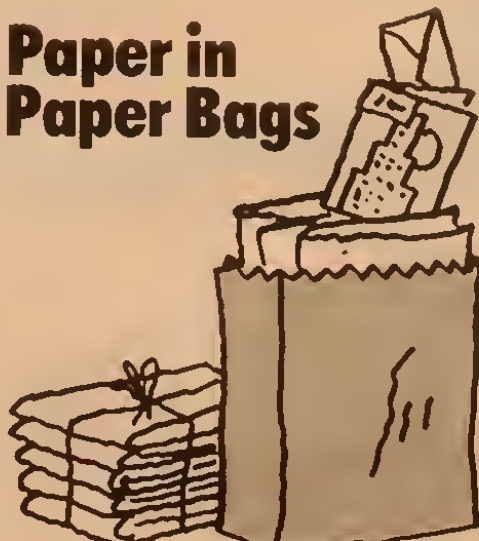
So much about shows at the Cultural Center's theatre this month because it's become such a happening place, under its new theatre directors Laura Esparza and Lalo Cervantes. And here's a flash — at press time the staff learned that they have been approved for a hefty "Challenge

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Grant" by the California Arts Council. Of course, the Council itself was in jeopardy, with the possibility it would be entirely eliminated in the new budget. Hope it survived. Call your local office of your legislators and state senators.

OTHER THEATRE, ETC.

In various and odd places there's a lot of drama that looks promising in July. Even a film - watch for "The Givine", a fictional movie about LA homeless getting free money from a ReadyTeller. At the Roxie (see calendar).

Live, through the 11th, the always good Theatre Pomegranate is playing "At Home in Hades", a dance-drama with text by Colm Wood and choreography by Robin Greenberg and Michelle Stortz. It's about the Modern Underworld experience, and it's in their tiny South of Market Space at 495 Clementina (at 6th/Folsom). They may extend. Tickets \$4-8, call 512-7965.

THE FIRST FRINGE FESTIVAL ever to happen in San Francisco will happen day and night on July 11th and 12th at Fort Mason Center. Hop onto the 22 or 47 and catch up to 13 (count 'em) different, some VERY different theatres, each doing a play lasting an hour. The Mission-based Julian Theatre kicks off the Festival at 2 on Saturday, followed by The Phoenix, Theatre Au Naturel, et al. til 10. Sunday's performances start at 1 PM with Young Performers' Theatre, then a bunch of others, ending with Tale Spinners. For tickets, reservations and info about multi-show "sampler passes", call The Fringe Festival at 346-5550.

How do you move a Marsh? By calling the building inspector. He'll order

it to move. That's what happened, anyway, and The Marsh, on a few hours' notice, had to move its performances out of the back room at Cafe Beano on Valencia. It's settled in temporarily at the former home of Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia near 21st. Next big show is Pulp Playhouse, starting July 9th. Call 641-0235 for a full brochure/info.

One of my favorite plays about Midwest life, fellow Minnesotan John Olive's "The Voice of the Prairie", about a travelling salesman who sells radio stations and dreams, will be performed by Harvest Theatre in the new Ehrer Theatre, 225 Geneva Avenue at the 280 off ramp. It plays in rep with "Light in the Village" from July 9th through August 9th.

"Voice" is a fun play with puddles of nostalgia. I saw it when it premiered in Minneapolis. Call Harvest at 563-1431.

NEXT MONTH: There's been some action following last month's NMN article on theatres closing and dying, especially on 16th Street. The Convention and Visitors' Bureau seemed nervous when we called about a rumor they were discouraging people from going to performances in The Mission. We'll track the rumor down, plus have an update on the City's refusal to keep the Eureka Theatre space alive for plays, though they had clearly guaranteed to do so when money was spent to outfit the building as a theatre eight years ago.

Rumor has a bingo parlor or a, maybe, a sweatshop opening there. Write us with any rumors you've heard — 777 Valencia, 94110.

We'll give you updates on The York and on the proposed "Mission Historic Entertainment District"

Photo by Phyllis Christopher



Tale Spinners Theatre's Big Down City.

JULIAN KICKS OFF 28TH YEAR IN DOUBLE BILL WITH TALE SPINNERS

Two of San Francisco's oldest theatre companies share the stage at New College Auditorium on Valencia Street in July and August.

Begun in the Summer of '65, The Julian Theatre starts its 28th continuous year of making plays, here in The Mission and on Potrero Hill, with "Charlie", a one-act comedy by the renowned Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek. It's about confronting the enemy in a controlled society. Michael Dingle plays a seemingly innocent eye doctor being visited by a suspicious woman, played by Jennifer Tawse, and her aging grandfather with a double-barrelled shotgun, played by

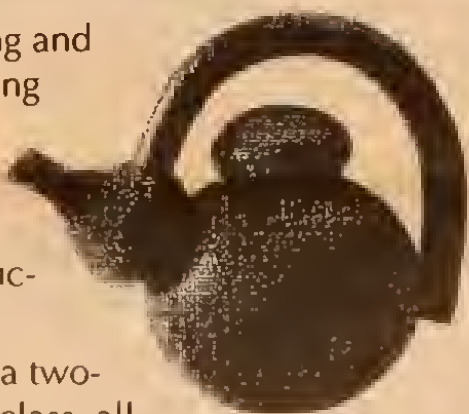
Richard Reineccius, who also directs.

Sharing the bill will be Tale Spinners' Theatre, begun in 1974, also here in the neighborhood, by ex-members of the SF Mime Troupe. While Talespinners began as a troupe for and of older people, their current play is strictly about the young. District resident Shoshana Marehand's "Big City Down", drawn from the author's extensive work with multicultural teens, is a coming of age play about seven friends in a San Francisco public school. The cast features veteran SF actors Kelvin Han Yee, Janis Chow, Cynthia Ruffin and Hilary Martin Jones. Paul Hellyer directs.

The double bill plays Thursdays through Sundays, July 16th through April 9th, including matinees on Sundays. For tickets and information call The Julian Theatre, 626-8986.

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ROUND ONE

With the opening of a free, non-profit boxing program on June 15th at the Precita Center, located at 534 Precita Street, youth and adults are able to work out on a variety of punching bags and even step into a regulation-sized ring.

The center is open daily from 4 PM to 10 PM and operates under the Mission Neighborhood Center's umbrella along with aid from the United Way.

Sonny Marson, who was born with boxing in his blood, had been shopping around for a site for several years before finally getting the OK for the Precita Center.

"It's sort of ironic that we got this place because it was supposedly a gang hangout when it was first built in 1921," said Marson.

"We're trying to give the kids around here something to do. If we can keep some of them off the streets, maybe we can keep some of them from getting involved with gangs," Marson said.

The boxing program at the Precita Center will be evaluated after three months to determine whether or not it will be allowed to continue.

It will be interesting to see what kind of support they get from the community as well as those who pull the public funding pursestrings.

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

We caught this baseball scoop while riding the MUNI 49-line down Mission

the other day.

Mike Gerard, who spent six years playing for Oakland A's affiliates Modesto (A) and Tacoma (AAA), apparently still has a pipeline into the A's organization and passed on the latest dope.

"Dave Henderson will most likely be going to the Colorado Rockies (expansion team) next year. That comes from Henderson himself," said Gerard. "Lance Blankenship will probably be the guy joining Henderson in the deal."

Gerard said we can also look forward to seeing A's first baseman Mark McGuire re-sign with his present club for a whopping \$6.5 million shortly after the All-Star break.

There was some speculation that Walt Weiss was being shopped around the American League. The backup shortstop is no longer on the trading block, according to Gerard, a former USF Don.

"Dante Benedetti (a former USF coach) is supposedly one of the favorites for the Rockies' manager position along with Stanford Coach Mark Marquess and ex-Yankee Bucky Dent," said Gerard.

As for the other expansion team, the Florida Marlins, ex- University of Miami coach Ron Frazier is the favorite while Pete Rose, strangely enough, is the strong second-choice.

SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

Louisiana may be the Sportsman's Paradise, but back in the 1930s and '40s, the Mission certainly had its share of "action".



Former featherweight champion 81-year old John Vidal instructs a young boxer.

We caught up with several of our paisans in the Mission and North Beach and heard enough colorful tales of baseball, boxing, horses and bookmaking to fill a five-pound novel.

Dante Benedetti, former owner of the New Pisa, always has time to talk, especially when the subject is baseball.

Benedetti, the former USF baseball coach for whom the Dons' diamond is named, recalled some of his childhood days spent at the old Rec Park which was located at Valencia and 15th Street.

"I was one of those brats, about 10 or 12 years old. Down at the Boys Club, we used to draw straws to see who got to sell the seat cushions," said Benedetti. "You had to be one of the lucky ones because only 20 of us got to go. Whenever I went to the ballpark I felt like a millionaire."

"The hardest part wasn't drawing the right straw, but convincing my mom to let

me go. I used to tell her the man at the Boys Club made me go, that I hadn't volunteered," Benedetti said.

MONEY WASHED AWAY

Mission District ace mechanic Tony D. hought some of the pre-fight hype for last month's WBO championship fight at the Civic between "Irish" Pat Lawlor (now 18-2) and John David Jackson (25-0, 15 KOs).

"I was out in the Sunset the other night doing some laundry and Pat Lawlor was in there. He told me he was going to win the fight so I put 50 bucks on him. I don't mind losing the money so much as the way he went about it. He didn't hardly throw a punch," said D.

Lawlor lost on a ninth-round TKO as a cut above his left eye prevented him from answering the bell for the tenth.

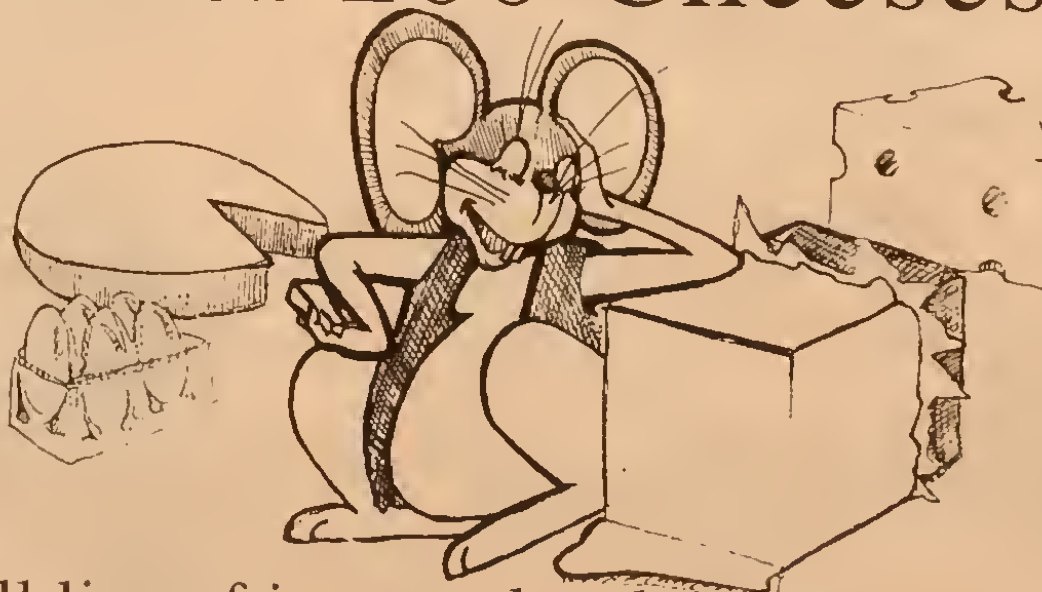
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THE CHICK'N COOP PLEASES

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND GENEROUS HELPINGS OF HOME STYLE COOKING

by Harry Lupus

Food fads come and food fads go, but we've all got to eat. In the old days, when American men disdained to enter a kitchen, city bachelors would eat their three hot in a local diner, suffering through night after night of blue-plate specials and morning after morning of coffee, ham and eggs.

But, did they really suffer so much? This was a time before the cholesterol scare took the pleasure out of eating out. A time before the temptations of microwaveable convenience foods and the persuasions of feminism convinced guys that it would be better to fend for themselves.

Progress is progress, and I'm not arguing. But there is something charming about those old movies that show rows of restaurant regulars sitting at the counter or in booths, weather-beaten hats knocked back on their heads and cuppa java at their lips. Nowadays, eating out means mostly yuppie fare or fast food.

Or, perhaps this is an illusion. The old-style diners don't make it into the movies any more, but you can still find them if you look. You don't even have to look far. In fact, all you have to do is stumble out of the most dishevelled BART station in the city at 16th and Mission, lurch across the street and collapse into a comfortable seat at the Chick n Coop Restaurant - John Choi, 29, proprietor.

Let the damascene heat waves of Mission Street do their best - there is always a cool breeze inside the Chick n Coop. This is because John Choi furnishes his restaurant his restaurant with many fans. There are spinning ceiling fans, whirling floor fans and even a couple of rotating shelf-sized fans. It is

important to keep the customer cool," believes Choi. "You know how the Mission District is," he says. "We have to keep the customer cool inside, very comfortable. You don't want the customer to be uncomfortable. We want them to feel like home."

Choi often greets his customers personally from behind the steaming buffet. "Hi, what would you like?" he asks cheerfully. When his advice is solicited, he recommends the chicken. It is tasty and also, he claims, healthy.

"Instead of having chicken that is fried, we offer something that has less cholesterol. We use a hot oven to keep all the natural juice and leave out all the cholesterol and grease."

In fact, the John Choi Chick n Coop chicken is blessed with plenty of schmaltz. If you take a peek in the window at dinner time, you will see so many patrons licking their paws that, for a moment, it looks like an elaborate bit of digital choreography, a Busby Berkeley fantasy for fingers.

Unlike many purveyors of cheap eats, John Choi scorns fake and unnatural products. "Many places use imitation mashed potatoes," he says. "It's all from natural things we use."

Along with roast chicken, the Chick n Coop offers roast turkey, roast beef, roast ham and spaghetti with sauce. Almost all of the dinners, which include a small salad and potato (baked or mashed) or rice, are under five dollars.

The roast ham, when sliced, is a shiny, pinkish oval of meat halfway between fibrous and succulent. Though unkosher, it is bound to be a temptation to any healthy appetite.

The Chick n Coop goes through four



Chick 'N Coop owner John Choi. Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona.

roast turkeys each day, along with a hundred and fifty chickens. Any of the meats are available with Choi's own barbecue sauce, which is delightfully sweet and ketchupy.

The salads and desserts are old-fashioned and interesting. "Rice-pudding and tapioca," says John Choi, are "the best sellers in the dessert category."

The Chick n Coop is ten years old, and one of the bright spots on 16th Street. Choi is hoping the block will improve, and says that he thinks things are already getting better.

There is a mixed crowd in the Chick n Coop. Young hipsters who've grown too cool for cafes rub elbows with elderly citizens who know how to stretch a fixed

income. It's a very congenial atmosphere, and in the early evening, diners will sometimes joshingly compete to guess the puzzle on Wheel of Fortune, which plays on a small TV balanced atop the water dispenser.

The take-out chicken dinner for two or three, at just over ten dollars, is a wonderful bargain. But, for many of the Chick n Coop diners, it may be too much food. The next time you are feeling like Jack Lemmon in *The Apartment* - alone in the city and nobody to cook for you - the

Chick n Coop might be a nice short-order consolation.

The Chick N Coop is located at 3036 16th, open 7 days a week, 10:30 AM - 8:30 PM.

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by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

A gathering of women saloon keepers recently convened for a klatch. These women are a rare breed holding their heads high in a tough calling to a service that's even tougher in a place like the Bay Area where juice bars are the rage and bellying-up-to-the-bar is almost as scorned as smoking cigarettes in public places. I am an ex-drunk who still smokes cigarettes, a vestige of rebellion against conformity, fostered in the hazy atmosphere of saloons.

I have some fond memories of women saloon keepers, the special kind, the ones who tend women's (lesbian) bars. These are wise women full of stories confided to their open ears. They witness the throngs of lesbian/feminine humanity travel on a journey from pain to healing, from self denial to self expression.

Some things have changed since my drinking days. The places I went were called by names like the Girls' Club, Sonny's Hideaway and the Frontier. This was in the days before Gay Pride Parades, clubs called the Girl-Spot, the Box or Club Q (for Queer). These were the days before Queer Nation, when our groups were called names like Homophile League, Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis. While the old names were more vague, our purpose was clear: overcome prejudice and stereotyping. (The words homophobia and heterosexism didn't yet exist, although the behaviors certainly did.)

Kiss-ins didn't start with Queer Nation invasions of suburban malls. We went to country western bars, without the protection of women saloon keepers, in the back woods of New England. This was risky business that defied the scorn of a misinformed world and contradicted our tendency to use vague names for our organizations. Still, it was the rugged individualism of women saloon keepers that

inspired our daredevil adventures into the unknown. We had been instructed in the hearty ways of wild women.

After our forays into the hostile world above ground, we would retreat to our underground world of lesbian bars. It was safe here, sometimes — or at least, this was our turf so if anyone came in looking to start trouble by queer bashing or baiting, we would respond without hesitation. (This is our bar so behave yourself or expect consequences.) We learned to stand up at the bar and stand our ground. We rose from being seated at tables with our legs crossed.

It was in these bars that women could be who we are: athletes, musicians, tradeswomen, prostitutes. There were butches and femmes, feminists and battered wives. Rebellion was fomented in these smoke-filled rooms. We found our grit, chutzpah and voice in these "dives", protected by the steady hands of women saloon keepers and the strong arms of women bouncers.

The tragic consequences of homophobia were clear in these places as we drank and drugged ourselves into a numbness that hid the pain. Some of us rammed our cars into telephone poles, some overdosed, some suicided. Those of us who survived knew the score and how to make it a win. We expressed our courage, found our voices, dared to dream a vision of a different world.

There was a time when feminist organizations were ashamed to admit that lesbians had anything to do with the women's movement. And, of course, it was the first thing detractors would accuse feminists of being. In the early days many of us came above ground to help the cause of women. We were examples of women with independence, daring, a yes-we-can attitude. We motivated a whole movement into action, pushed women



from degradation, fear and uncertainty. And, we learned new ways to heal our pain.

Ex-drunks are often expected to denounce the seamier experiences of the past associated with booze. I don't; I won't. I learned lessons that brought me to this very moment, that supported me in a hostile world. The greatest service from saloon keepers was being given permission to be who and how I am, to be seen and heard with tolerance. This is at the root of my liberation.

A new age lesbian recently said she

didn't understand what's with gay pride since being a lesbian is who she is, not what she's accomplished. It's apparent she missed the time of my life when bar dykes reigned. That experience taught me that staying alive is quite an accomplishment, that being an out lesbian is reason enough for pride. She is an orphan who has not discovered, claimed her amazonian foremothers, the women saloon keepers of lesbian bars.



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Editor:

I am a 51 year old (Latino/Italian) woman whose family has lived in the Mission since 1929, in San Francisco since the turn of the century and in California since the Gold Rush. I am a house-owner, a tax-paying single mother who votes and contributes to the community in which I reside. If the federal, state or city government does something I do not

agree with and is non-responsive, I feel perfectly within my rights to protest, and to make my voice heard.

On the evening of Wednesday, May 20, 1992, I attended the Police Commission's meeting dealing with the problems and concerns of Mission District residents. The meeting was packed with ex-Chief of Police Hongisto supporters - many of which were only there to vent their frustration at his recent dismissal

rather than for anything dealing with the Mission.

Repeatedly, male Hongisto supporters verbally abused females who did not agree with them. More than one became violently angry, trying to hit a woman on the head, while others shouted in a woman's cars, tried to grab a whistle from around a woman's neck and yank it off, and becoming verbally and sexually abusive.

It's obvious that some Hongisto supporters only want people, women, who agree with them, or who they can bully and abuse.

Is this San Francisco, 1992, or Berlin, 1938?

Diana J. Pavia

Editor:

This letter will not contain problems without answers, I would like to ask and answer some questions that I, as a poor, free lance film maker and journalist feel are important but often not discussed.

Poverty, possible answers: education in and out of the classroom. You, as someone capable of reading this letter, possess the ability to teach someone how to read (probably). You can do this on your own or as part of a literacy drive currently in progress or it is something that you can start on your own (by yourself or with family or friends). The library is a disappearing service but if you

act now there is a world of free or accessible information available to you, just ask. I understand that in this time of economic turbulence time is a very valuable commodity maybe you can donate some tax deductible funds. Every single penny counts. Communication, you can not learn or teach anything to anyone without communicating with the person that you expect to teach something to or learn from without asking questions. Crossing social, racial or economic barriers is a fantastic way to ease social (or other) tensions. You have the ability to pick and choose your friends or the people that you associate with, if you are afraid to communicate with strangers, you can take your time, gather information about the person that you intend to communicate with and weigh their value to you and other people (LISTEN to what this person is saying). Language, just because this person communicates differently than you doesn't mean that he or she doesn't know what they're saying, you - don't know what they're saying. Learn another language or dialect, slang is a great, informal way to communicate with someone. Raw information available to you at every street corner. Go learn, go teach!

Throughout history, Western medicine has tried and failed, treating a variety of disorders with medicines that have a list of side effects that may outweigh the actual disorder you intend to treat. Ask any acupuncturist, herbologist, health food advocate. There are a variety of books on the subject and informed people in this city, ask around, how many horror stories do you know that involve western medicine treatments?

Ross Perot and honesty, sure he's honest so was Hitler and Pope number ten (Innocent), Pope Innocent is a fantastic example. Auto Da Fe was his motto, it means burn the non-believers alive. More people have died in the name of Jesus Christ than any other reason in history. The Spanish inquisition, being one small example ask any honest historian or any other person well versed on the subject. Educate, inform, volunteer on the interpersonal level every day.

Pollution: there are five million two hundred thousand automobiles in the Bay Area. Do you need yours? Are you experiencing weight or health problems? Imagine if you rode a bicycle to work every day. Ride one across this city one day, you will have and show a lot more respect for people who ride them for transportation and or a living. People seem to be losing respect for themselves and other people. Take it from a twenty four year old that has worked his way around the world four times and held seven dead people in his hands. The real issue here is: RESPECT.

K.

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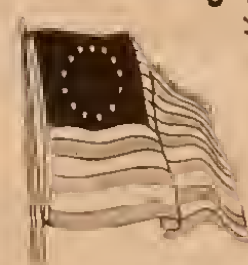
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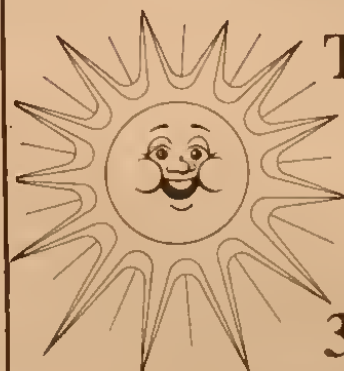
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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Check It Out - young teenage adventure featuring disappearing video games and an evil monster, performed with "Look It Up", a young kitten's quest, by Make-A-Circus at Dolores Park, 12:30 PM.

Sequiter - a diverse evening of works in progress... "giant masks that mutate before your eyes... pure pop for now people... tones in the dark... panic-stricken slapstick tragedy performance art" at Studio 2505, 2505 Mariposa. 8 PM, \$6 (510) 531-9332.

Komotion Reopens! - with film and music to benefit cultural exchange with Central Africa. 2779 16th near Folsom, 8 PM, \$5. They're even letting out their phone number (648-4923), so it looks like the permit police have gone back into their cage. Or fax them something - 626-2685.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Swan Lake on a Spit - Dance 4 Dance benefit and barbecue at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. Noon to 6 PM, 252-6240.

Cyberpatriots Unite! - benefit for Processed World and Mercury Rising magazines (serving disgruntled technopoles and banged up bike messengers respectively). Music, poetry, recitations, terrifying bicycle videos, maybe even some virtual fireworks. At Komotion, 2779 16th, 7:30 PM, \$5. For more information about Processed World, call 648-4923.

Social Work - what would the 4th of July be like without the Mime Troupe in Dolores Park? This "election year fantasy" starts at 1:30 PM, also 5th, 285-1720.

MONDAY, JULY 6

Monday Night Marsh - rotating quartets of short performance pieces Mondays, 8:30 PM at their new location, 968 Valencia, \$5. Also 13th, 20th, 27th, call 641-0235 for performer info and reservations.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

Good Sex - broadcast journalist Julia Hutton reads from her book about same based on "80 in-depth explicit interviews with women and men, 17 to 73". Modern Times, 888 Valencia, 7:30 PM, Free!

Year of the Women Politicians? - K. Kaufman, Catherine Dee and Judith L. Boice discuss the upcoming elections at Old Wives' Tales and maybe either Dianne Feinstein or Barbara Boxer will drop in. 1009 Valencia at 21st, 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

Pet Loss Support Group - for grieving (ex) pet owners moderated by Dr. Betty Carmack at the SPCA, 2500 16th Street. 7:30 PM, free but call 554-3000 to confirm.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Feathers, Sequins, Gilded Cages and Trapezes - are some of the elements utilized by Julie Queen (aka 1/3 of the "Qube Chix") and Mary Fleming. They serve up a little stew of Gershwin, Cage and Kurt Weill at the Marsh Wednesdays, 8 PM (also 15th, 22nd, 29th). 968 Valencia, \$5, 641-0235.

Visionary Voices - Penny Rosenwasser reads from a collection of inter-

views with women shamans, activists, teachers, artists and healers at Old Wives' Tales. 1009 Valencia, 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

Summerfest 1992 - Colette Bischer-Choate, Gail Chodera and Janice Garrett at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. 8 PM (also 10th), \$10, 626-6745.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

10 Years of Creativity Explored - student art works and stuff by their teachers at the Mission Cultural Center in recognition of the program's 10th anniversary. Reception 6 PM. Exhibit through 31st at 2868 Mission (821-1155).

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Monkey Business - Class Struggle Video debunks the "myth of the African origin of AIDS and the Green Monkey theory" in this German documentary 5 PM on Viacom Channel 25. 673-4609 for more information.

The Mad Dancers - part One of Yehuda Hyman's Slovakian trilogy that will take its place beside Star Wars if The Marsh has anything to say about it. An IBM secretary plagued by unnerving dreams witnesses the kidnapping of a mysterious "Princess" and begins a journey which ends at the ominous Room #7 at the Hotel Pomegranate. 968 Valencia, 10:30 PM (also 18th & 25th), \$6 641-0235.

Animal Behavior Class - conducted by San Francisco State University and the SPCA. Communication skills taught by Animal Behaviorist Bob Gutierrez. Two meetings, also 18th, \$45. To register, call 338-1205.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

The Giving - advance preview of a film in which a disgruntled computer executive reprograms a Los Angeles ATM machine to give money to the homeless at the Roxie. Produced by Tim Disney, directed by Eames Demetrios, who will be at the 7 and 9:15 PM screenings.

MONDAY, JULY 13

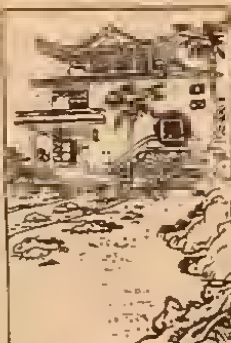
The Other Side - LA Weekly journalist Ruben Martinez discusses "fault lines, guerrilla saints and the true heart of rock n'roll" at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Virtual Sex - Susie Bright takes an intimate look at the human sexual condition (virtual viruses? virtual progeny?) at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, virtually free, 282-9246.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

NEA Disgranted Midsummer Night's Dream - defunded director Fred Curehack and his dolls, dummies, masks, magic shadow and lights takes you on a dream journey through a dark and hilarious night of love. The government took a hard look at "the feuding King of Shadows and the Fairy Queen, the Rapist Hero and his Amazon bride, the Psycho Father, the Passion-Crazed Teenagers, the Ass-Headed Amateur Actor, the Sexy Fairies and that little devil Puck" (in more or less order George n' Barbie, Clarence and Radice, H. R., MTV minions inflamed by Slick Willie's saxophone, Sleepin' Ron, the Klubstutators and Jesse the Pighearted?) and yanked away \$25,000 of someone's



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tax dollars, so you'll have to pay \$10-12 to the Noh Space in the Artaud Complex, 2840 Mariposa through August 8th. 8 PM, 621-0507 for times and reservations.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Moving Basis - a weekend of new, modern dance concerning whales, Bulgarian women, Cuban choreographers and the playful trio "On A Lark". 8:30 PM, also 18th at Footwork, 3221 22nd. \$8-10, 824-5044.

Possessing the Secret of Joy - Alice Walker reads at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

More Summerfest - Helen Dannenberg, Emma Lou Huckaby and Jeff Friedman kicking up their heels at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. 8 PM (also 19th), \$10, 626-6745.

Punk Film Revival Shows at Komotion, 2779 16th. Three shows, 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30, \$4-5, 648-4923.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Modern Times Grand Opening Party - celebrating their new location (888 Valencia) with music and food. 7 PM, 282-9246.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

The Seventh Veil - the Lab offsite, Tracy Rhoades and Exploding Roses, attendants, fools, male strippers and St. John the Baptist interpret the story of Salome at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 8:30 PM (through 25th), \$10-12, 621-7797.

Delia Ironfoot - author Jeane Harris reads at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Summerfest, Etc. - Liz Ozol at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th. 8 PM (through 26th), \$10, 626-6745.

The Hours and Times - treating the speculation and myth of "the friendship of Brian Epstein and John Lennon" set in Barcelona, 1963. At the Roxie, through Aug. 2nd, call theatre for times.

Highbrow Lowlife - poets Q. R. Hland and John Ross celebrate 40 years of friendship at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, Free, 282-9246.

"Fuck You Spaceman" Revord Realease Party - with the Phantom Surfers, Three Stoned Men, Sir Dancealot and his Snacketers at the Chameleon, 853 Valencia (821-1891).

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Discipline Your Pussy - cat behavior class conducted by consultant Kate Gamble at the SPCA, 2500 16th Street. 10 AM, \$5, 554-3073.

Benefit for Cuba - a special concert to send medicine in small, unmarked packages at Mission High School, 18th and Dolores. Entertainment by "Well Known Latin Musicians". 8 PM, \$10-20, 821-7575.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

Fighting the Fascists - a forum by members of Radical Women who have just returned from Simi Valley. "Practical and political strategies on how to keep the fascists from destroying our constitutional rights," preceded by "a delicious hearty dinner" (\$5 donation for grub). 523-A Valencia Street, 7:30 PM, 864-1278.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

What Works - reading from a ten year old women writers' group at Modern

Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, donation, 282-9246.

Murder Can Be Fun - magazine release party at the Chameleon, 853 Valencia (821-1891).

THURSDAY, JULY 30

Closer To Home - a focus on bisexuality and feminism with local essayists at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Arena - Paul Benney, Jessica Lutes and the On Site Dance Company at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. 8:30 PM (also 2nd), \$12, 621-7797.

ONGOING:

Stage:

Quick, get out to Thick Description's "Electra" through 5th at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. \$8-12, 621-0507. Also through 5th "Kvetch" at Phoenix Theatre, 301 Eighth Street (621-4423). "Pulp Playhouse" brings four hilarious weeks of improvisation to the Marsh, 968 Valencia. "Adventure" kicks off July 9-11, "Crime" 16-18th, "Romance" 23-25th and "Horror" 30th through August 1st. 8 PM, \$6-12, 641-0235. By popular demand, Wallace Shawn's "The Fever" continues through 11th at New College Auditorium, 777 Valencia at 19th. 8 PM, \$9-12, for reservations and info, call 626-8986.

Jobs:

Free practical advise and individual resume critique from Chamber of Commerce professionals every Wednesday evening, 7 PM. 465 California, 9th Floor, 392-4511.

Volunteers:

Work outdoors in habitat restoration, urban gardening, wild animal care & more through Planet Drum. Volunteer referral at 285-6656 and ask for Linzy. Save money on your rent, circulate petitions against rent hikes and evictions, call 282-5525 or 282-8877 (for Spanish-speaking inquilinos).

Camp:

Register now for Summer Day Camp at Golden Gate Lutheran Church, 601 Dolores, to take place August 3-7th, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Arts, crafts, music, swimming, snacks, ages pre-K through 4th grade. Sliding scale, 647-5050.

Eyes:

Native American and Chicano artists collaborate at Galeria de la Raza in the exhibit "Indigenous Peoples: No Boundaries" opening 17th through September 5th at 685 Market, Suite 250 (495-7600) and 2857 24th Street (826-8009). Full color monotypes and figure drawings by Max White at Just Desserts, 248 Church, through 15th.

Ears:

Free local music matinees to benefit the homeless at Club Chameleon Saturdays and Sundays at 4:30. 853 Valencia, 821-1891. A canned food donation is requested.

Feet:

"At Home in Hades" is a dance dramatization of the descent into the underworld through 11th at Theatre Pomegranate, 495 Clementina (near 6th and Howard). \$4-8, 512-7965. Walkabout the Mission and see murals Saturdays at 1:30 PM. Tours begin at 348 Precita, \$1-3, 285-2287.

Genitals:

The SPCA has "fixed" its sight upon the City's cat population and the Society will alter all cats — owned or unowned — brought to its smiling doctors following a call to 554-3000. Stay out of town Michelle Pfeiffer... if you know what's good for you!

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THE MOON MAN

MY MOTHER TOLD ME (when i was a little man) THERE WAS A MAN ON THE MOON. MY MOTHER DID NOT TELL ME (when i grew up to be a big man) I WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM.

by Al Rose

He told me he was about ready to go on this trip. It was a lifelong project. Now everything was ready to go. The only problem for me was he wanted me to go along with him. The place we were going to go to was... the moon!

"You know, when you were a little boy, how your mother kept telling you there was a man on the moon. Well, your mother was right. There are lots and lots of men on the moon."

"Wait a minute," I said. "We sent spacemen up there. They didn't find anyone. No one. Nobody. What about that?"

"Our dumb government. They sent straight men up to the moon. That's why they didn't find anyone up there. If the government had sent gay men up there, they would have been greeted with open arms."

I looked at him like Colonel Sanders must have looked at chickens on some chicken farm. Sometimes you try to take just one more drink from a bottle you know is empty. This was one of those times. If the Big Bad Wolf came along and told us he was going to blow us -

could it matter? If this man - this moon-man - believed (really believed) certain things could happen... who was I to tell him they could not.

"So these moon-men, these gay men on the moon, they were afraid to come out because the spacemen were straight?"

"Now you understand. They were afraid. What's the first thing you feel when you see someone you do not know? Love? Hell no. Fear. Fear is the first thing you feel when you meet someone you do not know. You are walking down a street. Someone walks up behind you! — do you feel love? No. You feel fear. That fear factor is multiplied a thousand times over up on the moon. Look what straight men have done to the earth. The air is so bad you can see it. The water is so bad fish are dying in the very water you are fishing in. Most of the food that we eat has never been touched by the sun. We are supposed to love each other but we live in constant fear of each other. Believe me - the last thing you want to see when you are on the moon is a straight man from Earth."

I wondered how we were going to get there. To the moon. He told me:

"The moon-men will come here and get us. Because we are not straight, we are already in communication with them. It is just a matter of time. They will come. The moon-men know we are surrounded by anti-gay people. People who want to hurt us. People who want to kill us. The moon-men will take us



away from all this hate."

"Look — this is a quaint idea. To believe there is some sort of paradise up on the moon. That only gay loving men are allowed to live there. I will write about it and attempt to tell the world about this... but... do you think the world will be able to understand?"

He pointed to the hills of San Francisco. "You see Twin Peaks? That is where the moon-men are going to land. Behind Twin Peaks. We can take a bus up there and wait for them to come."

We took a bus to Twin Peaks. We sat together atop Twin Peaks and looked down at what some people consider as

being the most beautiful city in the world. From time to time he looked at me like people look at each other inside a train station when the train is about to leave.

And he did leave(?)...

After that night on Twin Peaks, I never saw him again. Certain people come into everyone's life. Stay a short while. Then - forever - disappear. Never to be seen again.

Now I know my mother was right: there is a man on the moon. On a clear night... when there are no clouds in the sky... I can see his face.



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WHY GET UP?

by Frank Deadbeat

Why do anything?

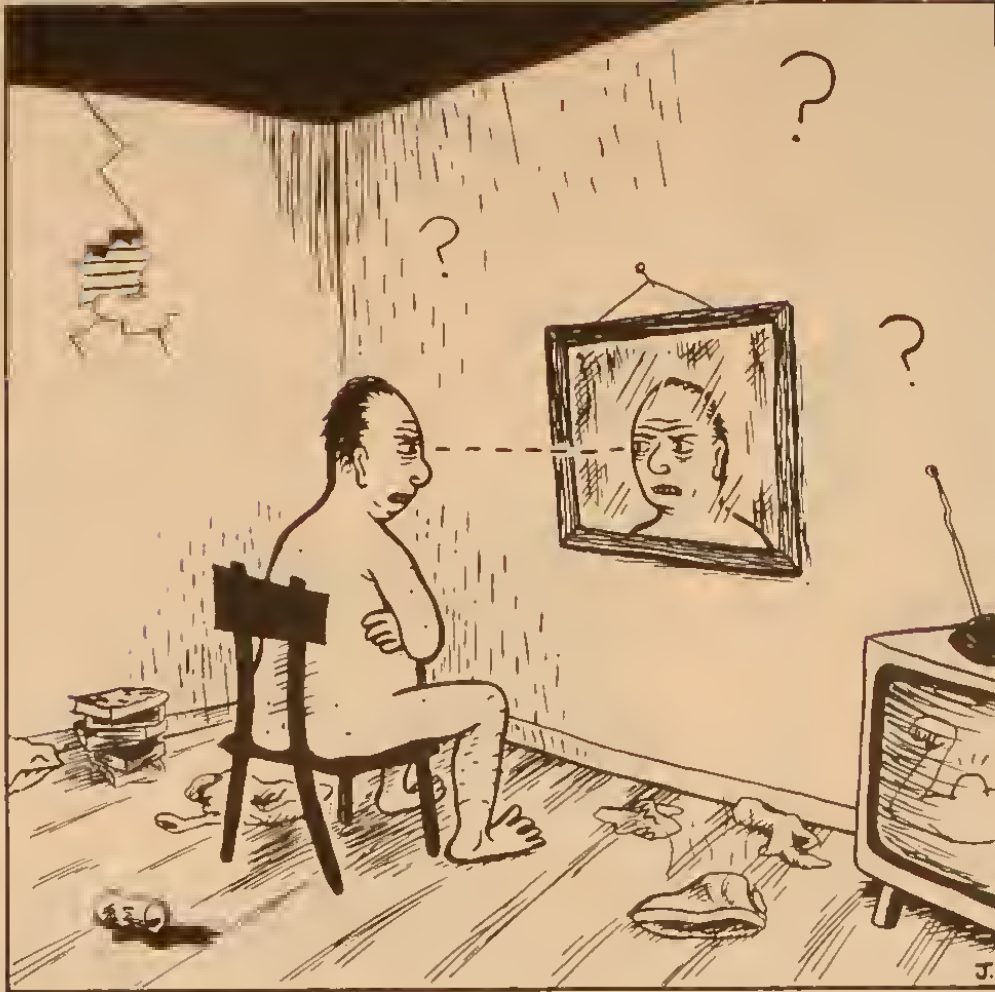
I'm still not satisfied with any of your reasons. Maybe I refuse to be satisfied. What does this imply? Please keep your answers brief. They won't be satisfactory in any case.

"Yes, well, we all fail this quiz so let's adjust the curve and please get on with it. Can't you stop criticizing for just one second? Do you think the world revolves around your judgments? Face reality!" Fat piece of dog shit on the sidewalk. Bon appetit or I curbstone you. That means you put your mouth around the corner of the curb I kick the back of your head with my bootheel, breaking all your teeth. So better eat it. Eat that turd it's real.

You have a choice therefore you are. As Erica Jong a.k.a. Kathy Acker points out, you're "real" too! Real shitty job, real shitty television, real bad music, sex, conscience: check one or all: a real bad choice. "And then? What can I do to give my life meaning?" The latent literary types go to a poetry reading — "USE OF CHTHONIC EXEGESIS UP THE ASS PRODUCES POETRY AND PROSE ERECTIONS", often not much else. Who's next? You want to take a swing at me? With all two hundred signed and numbered copies of your "book"?

Face facts, you're a miserable loser. A hundred million copies of your book, a hundred million dollars won't change that. You're dirty. Filthy. Stupid. Always have been, always will be. But enough church.

You are a gloriously unique human individual bursting with creative potential. You are evolving, growing, changing like a butterfly, a cosmic sprout. When we have all evolved beyond aggression greed



and dominance a beautiful new age will dawn, and we will live in brotherhood and sisterhood tilling the holy soil and singing simple songs in homage to the Goddess and her husband Mr. Goddess exiled to the den he has his own tv in there to watch the football game... excuse me, football doesn't fit this idyll; interest in such brutal spectacle will wither as the new old values take root, and there will be honeycakes in springtime and a dance around the maypole and after a thousand years of this I'll call an army down out of the hills to break your pots and burn the holy place of reeds and sow the seeds of suffering just to move the plot forward.

Of course I realize I have been conditioned in these misconceptions. "Look to the orangutans of the trees, they toil not, neither do they question." Who will question the questioners if not an ape? You see a man anywhere? What is a man? "A blade", oft gay. A seat of weaknesses offset by strengths. An inner core, integrity. The hero in a story. Who is reading your story? Are you aware of the ending? Waiting for the movie version? A sequel? When the reviews come in, good or bad, rest assured they will soon be forgotten. "That hero what's-his-name" or, "that coward what's-his-name" — the Goddess swallows all comers.

"There is no story, dahling, only words."

One of my favorite words is: bullshit. Is there "a" story? All I know is that there is story. Mind creates story and we

live in mind ergo we live in story. naturally we would all like to be read someday — at least our better passages — but showing your stories around to friends and family only goes so far; in fact, it can cause problems. Feelings get involved. That same core text, that living text of feeling we believed God could read when we were children. God knows, no one else can read it. Postulating The Reader creates God, but whatever you want to call it, it's your story.

Whatever "you" are is another matter. I am told that when we meet the gods and angels, demons and asuras, we are meeting beings far greater than ourselves, and yet they have no life beyond our own. They are as "real" as we are.

So I'll ask it again: why do anything? I may be asking out of sheer perversity, or willful ignorance, but why "evolve"? To escape the demons, retire in lotus-land? Eventually dissolve into the All-and-Nothing? Is that it? Why not just abdicate right now and let those other "greater" characters take over?

Three bland squares a day at Napa, thorazine and "Who's The Boss?" at 6:00, that's why. Bad form to rot unprettily in bed or toothless in a mental institution so we're stuck with it: not only with our useless need to live, but with our tastes, aversions, morals, vanities, amusements. For a human being, what matters isn't only survival or "enlightened self-interest" but at very least an aesthetic. And again we're back to patterns, stories "real" as "you" or "I"... so what? You are a literary device.

I am reminded of a phrase from Henry Miller: "... with permission to masturbate for the rest of your life" — but on a much higher plane, of course.

Moron this as it develops.



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